

DANIEL LIPPITT/staff photographer

Jim and Jan Whitcomb are photographed by Farmington Hills police chaptain Richard Karr during Jim Whitcomb's welcome-back party.

Returning reservist welcomed

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After more than six months away, whiteomb said be considers his Naval work a great opportunity but is glad to be home. "It was a real eye-opener. I told my wife I'm glad to have my mid-life crisis over with. It will be nice to get back into a routine."

Whiteomb returns to his job Monday, When he left for Virginia he was in the department's crime prevention section. He will return as a uniformed officer in the patrol division.

ington Hills police Chief William military had. They seem to be self-buyer said.

The say after Whiteomb returned, the police department best-ed a welcome-home party for the reservist and his family. He was awarded the chief's citation and ribbon for services given to the ington Hills police Chief William
Dwyer said.

The day after Whitcomb returned, the police department hosted a welcome-home party for the
reservist and his family. He was
awarded the chief's citation and
ribbon for services given to the
United States, Dwyer said.

Whitcomb joined the reserves in
1986 and received a direct commission. He joined when the reserve intelligence program was looking for
people and he thought it would be a
good idea.

"IT WAS just a personal thing. I recognized years ago there was a certain advantage that guys in the

Whitcomb is proud of his family.
"They did as well as anyone could imagine," he said, adding that he and his wife didn't make a big deal with his daughters that he would be leaving for a time.

"Their mother was the star of that show. For the most part, I don't think they had trouble under-standing why I had to go."

5572 Drake Road

Officials monitor outbreak of hepatitis at elementary

March 8. He planned to send another update home this week. "We are update home this week. "We are working with the county health department and the school nurse," he sald. "Every day, we look at the attendance, see who is sick and follow up with a phone call.

"We're treating this thing very carefully."

earefully." As an inflammatory viral infection of the liver which has a 1st. to 54-day incubation period, and causes flu-like symptoms such as diarrhea and minor cramping. It can be a problem in a group setting like a school, where children don't always wash their hands, then share food or classroom terms.

always wash, their hands, then share food or classroom liems. It is one of three strains of common hepatitis, which are all viral infectious diseases and cause inflammation to the liver, Altamirano said. Because hepatitis to viral, there is no treatment, except to keep those infected away from others until they are no longer infectious; and get family members and friends treated

witLiAM GRACE parent Sue Hamilton said ber 7-year-old daughter, Shauna, started showing signs of hepatitis on March 10 and was diagnosed with it one week ago. The case last November and both recent cases all came from the same second grade classroom at Grace, although school and health officials stress they have not yet confirmed whether the students contracted the virus from the classroom or acae older. Hamilton said she was informed by a students contracted the virus from the classroom or acae older. Hamilton said she was informed by a student of the same should be a support of the same should be a case of this in years," she said, adding that her doctor has not yet told her how long her daughter must stay home from school. "The school says they're disinfecting the room twice a day and not letting students share pencils." If my daughter can get it, any-

cd, or can get the shot."
Hamilton said the rest of her familion said the rest of her family inail and the rest of her family inail and state of the shot of the s

Health officials are trying to rule the common elements within the school and determine whether students were infected by one common exposure, or whether they are passing the virus from one to another, Blostein said.

day and not letting students share pencils.

"If my daughter can get it, any body can get it. People can get test Oakland County in recent weeks.

Study calls for school changes

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Committee members said many of the concepts can be accomplished by using current district funding, especially in light of the February operating millage defeat. Some would also become issues at the bargaining table for teachers before they could be implemented, White said.

She envisions some of the items taking up to live years to be fully integrated into the schools.

White will discuss the plan in detail at a School/Community Forum meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, at Harrison High School on 12

Mile between Middlebelt and Orehard Lake roads.

teachers to work together in plan-ning teaching methods. An extended day, where additional classes would be offered before or after school, is also proposed. At-risk student needs should also be addressed with a spe-cific program.

should also be addressed with a spe-cific program.

• Changing curriculum from rote memorization of facts and traditional testing, to teaching students to apply what they learn and connect it to the real world. Testing and evaluation would be expanded to include districtivide departmental exams, committee evaluation, research projects and a collection of student works showing what they have learned. New evaluations would demand quality from students.

• Getting rid of things like the senior excuse and demand a more rigorous academic performance, possibly including increased graduation requirements with the changed curriculum. Marketable skills would be stressed, students would be required to do community service work for credit, and vocational/technical curriculum would be incorporated as a key part of the academic program.

District language arts coordinator John Barrett, who coordinated much

District language arts cooranacor John Barrett, who coordinated much work on the study, sald some Farm-ington teachers are already discuss-ing the concepts. "They've bought into it," he said. "Much of this is breaking away from old paradigms."





Family Dining

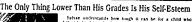
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