

# Bill lets councils lengthen terms

City councils would have power to extend the terms of city officials to four years by ordinance if a state Senate bill becomes law.

Without dissent, the Senate Local Government Committee voted 4-0 to report the bill to the floor with a recommendation that it pass.

Sponsored by Sen. James DeSana, D-Wyandotte, Senate Bill 164 would

amend the 1909 Home Rule Cities Act to allow councils to provide four-year terms for themselves, mayors and other elected officials by ordinance — that is, by majority vote of the council.

AT PRESENT, only councils in cities with more than 150,000 population — Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint and Warren — have power to override the charter by ordinance.

In other cities, terms are governed by city charter, adopted by the voters. State law takes precedence over city charters.

The bill would require a council contemplating such an ordinance to hold a public hearing. Once approved, the ordinance would take effect 60 days later. In that period, 10 percent of the registered voters could petition the city

clerk to put the plan on the ballot.

Senators doubted many cities would take advantage of the change.

Committee members voting to report out the bill were Chairman Harmon Cragg, R-Detroit; Norman Shinkle, R-Lambertville; Harry DeMaio, R-Battle Creek, and John Kelly, D-Detroit. Absent was Patrick McColough, D-Dearborn.

# Discovery: a cold-weather moth

By Timothy Nowicki  
special writer

**T**HOUGH I'VE walked my grandfather's woods near Gaylord many times through the years, I never find it boring.

Each change in the season alters my perception of the same trees that were the last time I walked by. I never know when I may flush a grouse or spook a deer.

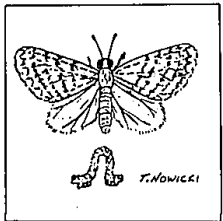
Surprises are one reason I enjoy those woods. My most recent surprise occurred a couple of weeks ago. It had turned cold suddenly, and three inches of snow had fallen. Much of the snow was still plastered to the north side of the trees.

## nature

DESPITE THE cold and snow, I found a number of crabs, cryptically colored moths clinging to the lee side of the trees.

On practically every tree in the center of the forest, there was at least one moth. Many trees had clusters of 30 or 40 near their bases.

I thought it was unusual to see so many moths at once, and certainly unusual to see insects under such extreme conditions.



Cankerworm moth: winged adult male and baby "inchworm."

As I later discovered, they were all male cankerworm moths, which were ready to mate. Only the male moths have wings which, even when extended, could be covered by a quarter. Females

are wingless.

All the males in the woods were waiting for the females to ascend the tree, where they would lay their eggs on the topmost branches.

IN SPRING, the eggs will hatch and the larvae begin feeding on young, emerging leaves.

The cankerworm larvae, or caterpillars, don't have legs in the middle of its bodies like many caterpillars. So when it moves, its body forms a loop as their tail moves forward to meet the front end. Thus their nickname: "loopers" or "inchworm."

After eating their fill of tender leaves, they lower themselves to the ground on gossamer strands. Transformation to an adult moth occurs underground in about four to six weeks.

I recall seeing larvae suspended in space as I walked through the woods during the spring, but I never took the time to follow the life cycle of this creature.

This year's population explosion prompted me to learn more about this hardy moth.

# Oakland parks photos in Detroit, Farmington

A photo exhibit of Oakland County parks is on display until Dec. 8 at the Detroit Camper and Travel Trailer Show in Cobo Hall.

The display will be at the Farmington Branch Library on Liberty Street Dec. 9-27.

The display features seasonal color photos of Oakland County parks and facilities. Parks include Addison Oaks in

Oxford, Glen Oaks in Farmington Hills, Groveland Oaks in Holly, Independence Oaks in Clarkston, Red Oaks in Madison Heights, Springfield Oaks in Davisburg, Waterford Oaks west of Pontiac and White Lake Oaks in White Lake Township.

Brochures on winter activities such as cross country skiing and snowmobiling are available at the display.

# Open house at Marygrove

Marygrove College's admissions office will host a reception and open house for adult returning students from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, in the Liberal Arts Building on campus at 8425 W. McNichols, Detroit.

For reservations, call the college admissions office at 882-8000, Ext. 220.

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