

'Coats for the Cold' lists dropoff centers

People who want to donate usable coats to the needy have until Monday to participate in the "Coats for the Cold" program sponsored by State Sen. Michael J. Bouchard.

Bouchard initiated this program five years ago to establish a system of distributing coats to the needy. He said thousands of coats have been collected and distributed.

"This year's program will be bigger and better," said Bouchard, who noted that 900 coats were col-

lected last year.

People can drop their used, but usable coats at 16 drop-off centers, including the following:

- Birmingham — Brother Rice High School, 7101 Lahar, Damman Hardware, 6650 Telegraph, and Bouchard's 16th District Office, 250 Martin, Rm. 206.
- Southfield — Damman Hardware, 30600 Southfield Road.
- Troy — ABC Warehouse, 244 W. Maple, and Damman Hardware, 5093 Rochester Road.

By Tim Richard
staff writer

The state House of Representatives Tuesday found money for Wayne's "CountyCare" health care program as well as for the Holocaust Center in West Bloomfield and forwarded the bill to the Senate for concurrence.

Senators are scheduled to vote today.

What started out as a capital outlay bill was turned into an emergency aid measure for the homeless and others in need.

The four-year-old CountyCare program provides service to indigent county residents.

It serves nearly 54,000 people who are poor, but do not qualify for Medicaid. Earlier state budget cuts would have cancelled the program if the Legislature hadn't acted this week.

"The money is there," said Rep. Dominic Jacobetti, D-Negaunee, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. "We have the money without touching the rainy day fund."

Many Republicans, however, didn't believe Jacobetti. They offered amendments to shift \$15 million from the Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Symphony, Detroit History Museum and Grand Rapids Museum into aid to the homeless. All failed.

The FINAL House vote was 65 to 35.

Voting yes: Democrats Justine Barnes of Westland, Maxine Berman of Southfield, William Keith of Garden City and Wilfred Webb of Hazel Park; and Republicans Lyn Bankes of Livonia, Georgina Goss of Northville, John Jamian of Bloomfield Township.

Voting no: Democrat James Kosteva of Canton; Republicans Barbara Dobb of West Bloomfield, Tom Middleton of Orionville and Gordon

Republican Rep. Barbara Dobb's nay vote was ironic because she sponsored an amendment to restore \$50,000 to the Holocaust Center in her district.

Sparks of Troy.

John Bennett, D-Redford, and Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, had excused absences.

Dobb's nay vote was ironic because she sponsored an amendment to restore \$50,000 to the Holocaust Center in her district. Her amendment was adopted without dissent or roll call.

REPUBLICANS came close with an amendment to allow city councils in Grand Rapids and Detroit to spend their state arts and museum grants on emergency aid for the homeless.

One amendment, by Republican Bill Martin of Battle Creek, barely lost, 51 yes to 43 no, with 56 needed for passage.

Supporting it were Republicans Bankes, Dobb, Goss, Jamian, Middleton and Sparks and Democrat Kosteva.

Opposed were Democrats Barnes, Berman, Keith and Webb.

"It will create havoc," said Rep. Morris Hood, D-Detroit, warning of a possible impasse between Mayor Coleman Young and the council. "We'll have to rearrange our budget."

Rep. Maxine Berman, D-Southfield, chided the GOP for backing away from legislative responsibility to control state grants. "You can make the identical argument with the entire budget — social services, school aid. . . Just send it to the cities and say, 'Here, you decide.'"

Rep. Richard Young, D-Deerborn Heights, tweeted the GOP for wanting to sacrifice arts money for social services. "As soon as there was talk of cutting arts or the DSO, I was swamped with (protest) letters from Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Grosse Pointe. Most of those people are Republicans. If you cut them, you'll hear from your constituents," said Young, vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

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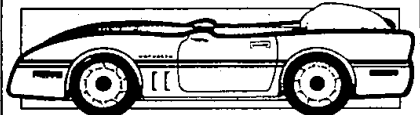
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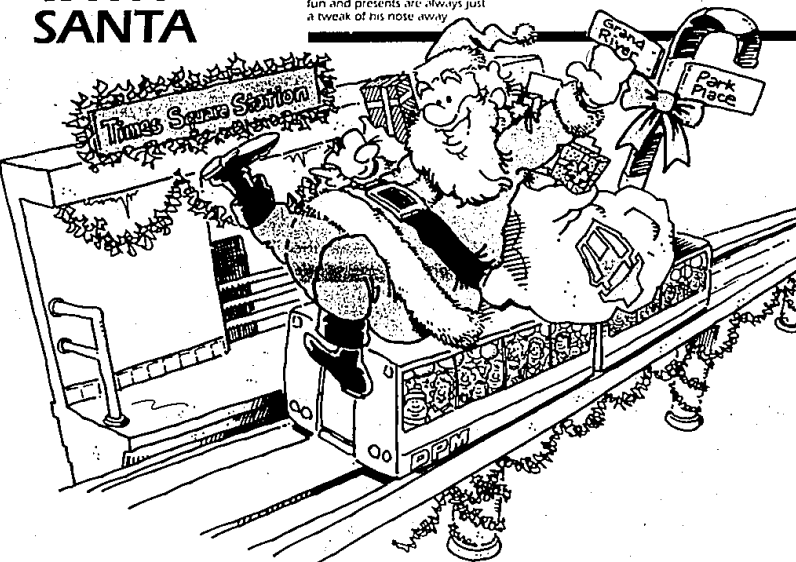
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