

## THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Tim Kamen and Kate Oxford star in "Glass Slipper," one of four original plays being presented by the Theater Guild of Livonia-Redford during "One Act-Stravaganza" 8 p.m. at the playhouse, 15138 Beech Dale (one block south of Five Mile Road, across from Township Hall), Redford. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors/students, call (313) 531-0554

SATURDAY



The Brothers Groove perform 8:45-10 p.m. during the Plymouth Community Summer Fest, which features carnival rides, and free entertainment at the Plymouth Compware Arnea on Beech Road, 1 1/4 mile north of M-14 in Plymouth Township. Festival hours are noon to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY



Motor Muster, one of the area's premier car gatherings, showcases more than 500 cars, motorcycles and bicycles from 1933-1973, at Greenfield Village in Dearborn, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$8.50-\$14, no charge for children under 5, (313) 271-1620.

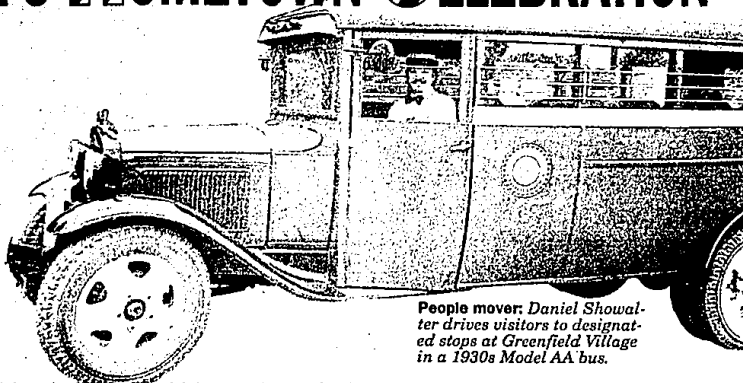
HOT TICKET



The Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival begins 8 p.m. Saturday, June 16 at Kirk in the Hills on Long Lake Road, about one mile west of Telegraph, with pianist/festival artistic director James Tocco joined by other musicians. The festival continues through Sunday, July 1. Call (248) 559-2097 or visit [www.greatlakeschambermusic.com](http://www.greatlakeschambermusic.com) for more information.

# AMERICA'S HOMETOWN CELEBRATION

## LOCAL ACTORS BRING HISTORY TO LIFE AT GREENFIELD VILLAGE



People mover: Daniel Showalter drives visitors to designated stops at Greenfield Village in a 1930s Model AA bus.

By LINDA ANN CHROMIN  
STAFF WRITER  
lchromin@oe.homecomm.net

Christian Overland paints a picture of Greenfield Village that comes alive with every bristle of his brush. Elijah McCoy, W.E.B. Dubois, and Marie Therese Cadillac, wife of Detroit founder Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac—visitors meet all of these historical figures while walking through the streets during the village's America's Hometown Celebration June 18 to Aug. 19.

"What we have is street theater," said Overland, director of Greenfield Village. "You can come inside and spend six to eight hours watching street theater; things that happened in the street like the Wright brothers. What makes this so special is this is 300 years of history. Guests have the ability to walk through time. You could spend two to three days learning about Elijah McCoy's

invention for activating a lubricator on a steam locomotive. He holds 67 patents for the 'real McCoy.' Before his invention, they had to stop their engines every so many miles and lubricate them.

"And because this is Detroit's tricentennial we're having Madame Cadillac talk about what it was like to hit the frontier."

### Fun weekends

Overland could go on and on about the celebration that includes an old-fashioned parade featuring transportation modes ranging from a Model T to an oxcart. Greenfield Village not only offers the opportunity to view the progress of America's love affair with the automobile on a daily basis, but also spotlights everything from a 1930 V8 Ford to a 1970s Pacer during a special Father's Day weekend Motor Muster. The event, which celebrates 40 years of Motor City history with over 500 cars, is one of the fun weekends Overland is overseeing at the village.

From July 1-4 the Detroit Symphony Orchestra will salute America with a rousing concert of patriotic music and fireworks. Saturday-Sunday

Aug. 4-5, the village celebrates African American culture with storytelling, reenactments, and music—blues, jazz and traditional spirituals.

### Living history

"It's one of America's great history parks and the only place where you can meet George Washington Carver and railroad engineers, see people actually doing things people did 110-150 years ago," said Overland. "They're shoveling the coal. They're living history the way it was."

"It's also a chance to go back to a slower pace where families can do things together—play games on the green such as participate in hoop races, and walk on stilts. Take a day off and spend it with your family. We pass out flags to children. It's a lot of fun because it's America's hometown. Come out and taste the shanties."

One of the things that's unusual is the eating oppor-

**America's Hometown Celebration**  
When: Monday, June 18 to Sunday, Aug. 19. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.  
Where: Greenfield Village, 30900 Oakwood Blvd., west of the Southfield Freeway, Dearborn  
Admission: \$8.50-\$14, children under age 5 and members free. Call (313) 271-1620 or visit [www.hfmg.org](http://www.hfmg.org) for details.

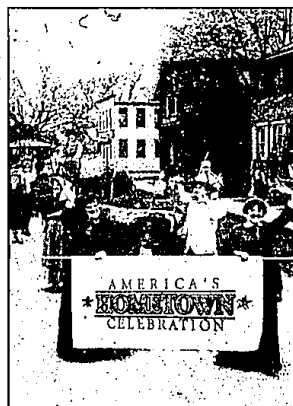
tunities—the 1850s Eagle Tavern, or a Taste of History with 300 years of food. The closest you can get to the past is eating foods with the same ingredients they used back then."

### Voices from the past

Or by meeting historical figures like W.E.B. Du Bois. Anthony Lucas, a Farmington Hills actor, plays the NAACP co-founder in one of the new dramatizations that takes visitors back to the African American resort set in the lakeside Michigan community of Idlewild. Notable African Americans such as writer Langston Hughes and novelist/anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston come to life in the project co-sponsored by the Arts League of Michigan.

"W.E.B. Du Bois was the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University, and founder/editor of Crisis Magazine, a literary magazine founded in 1910 to give voice to a lot of African American poets and writers at that time," said Lucas who first played the role during Black History Month at the museum in February. Lucas, who earned a master's degree from the University of Michigan in theater, and played one of the characters in

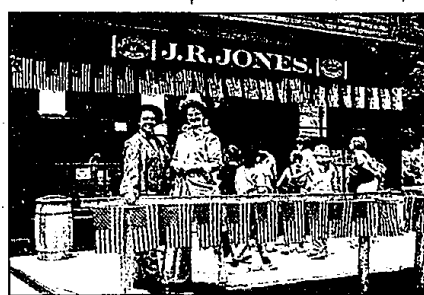
Please see VILLAGE, B2



Old-fashioned fun: America's Hometown Celebration includes a parade through the village every afternoon.



Historical figure: Anthony Lucas plays W.E.B. DuBois, co-founder of the NAACP and the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University.



Street theater: Maureen Dorrington plays a disagreeable customer at J.R. Jones (played by Timothy Wolf) General Store. The store was originally located in Waterford in the early 1900s.

## GALA EVENING

# 'Sunset' benefit gives guests glimpse of new polar bear digs

By LINDA ANN CHROMIN  
STAFF WRITER  
lchromin@oe.homecomm.net

Look out for icicles dripping overhead and bear prints tracking across the paths in the new Arctic Ring of Life exhibit at the Detroit Zoo. Fortunately for visitors, the tracks and most of the ice, are simulated. The exhibit only makes visitors think they're roaming the tundra with the polar bears and Arctic fox.

When it opens in September, the new \$13.6 million exhibit, which is housed on more than 400 acres, will be the world's largest polar bear den. Until then, visitors will have only a handful of opportunities to view the new digs designed by architects Jones & Jones of Seattle.

One of them is "Sunset at the Zoo" on June 19, a fund-raising event when guests will get to glimpse the three pools even before the bears do.

Lucky for the foxes Scott Carter said "it will only appear as if the Arctic foxes are living together with the bears but a dry moat will separate them." Carter, curator of mammals, recently led a tour of exhibit which will also be home to snowy owls as well as harbor and harp seals.

**Sunset at the Zoo**  
What: An annual fund-raising event featuring a live auction, raffle, preview of the Arctic Ring of Life polar bear exhibit, and strolling supper by 18 of the area's finest restaurants  
When: 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, June 19  
Where: Detroit Zoo, 8450 West 10 Mile Road at 148th, Royal Oak  
Tickets: \$125-\$500, call (248) 541-5171

"It begins with an early 1900s Inuit village and the first view of polar bears in the southern range of the Arctic and moves north," said Carter.

### Trek north

The Arctic region encompasses two continents whose southernmost edges form a ring around the top of the globe and give the exhibit its name. Designers thought of



PHOTO COURTESY DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

**Polar bear affair:** This polar bear is one of seven awaiting completion of the Arctic Ring of Life. Guests of the Detroit Zoo's annual fund-raiser will see the new digs even before the bears do.

everything to mimic the environment there, including cooling pads to give bears places to go in the summer. Inukshuks, sculpture-like rocks assembled by the Inuits as way finders, guide visitors as they make their way from the summer tundra past a fresh water pool where cubs could learn to swim if the zoo decides to do captive breeding.

On the trek north there will be opportunities to see bears in the southern tundra, open water and on pack ice. Just follow the trail where fox and bear prints descend to the seals in the pool at the bottom.

The first indoor exhibit teaches visitors about Inuit culture. Nunavut Gallery is filled with Inuit art and artifacts curated by Gerry Craig. Alongside the stone sculptures of polar bear, caribou, wolf, seal, falcon and an Arctic fox, floor to ceiling glass panels give visitors their first underwater view of polar bears and seals who are separated from each other by acrylic panels.

### Polar Passage

Then it's on to the Polar Passage. The 70-foot long underwater tunnel allows bears to swim around visitors. Carter says not to worry, the acrylic is four-

Please see ZOO, B3