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PACKARD MOTOR CAR FOUNDATION PRESENTS

THE

APR 2025

PACKARD PULSE

HONORING HISTORY, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS



2025 Great Gatsby Gala Fundraiser

Wow what an awesome event!



It was extra special to celebrate the gala event this year since it is also the 100th anniversary of F. Scott Fitzgerald's book.

The PPG is a perfect setting to immerse yourself in the 1920s vibe and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship for a good cause.

We are very fortunate and grateful to have the love and support of so many vendors, volunteers, friends and donors.

[Click Here](#) to view the **2025 Gala Program** book and learn more about the sponsors and vendors that helped make all of this happen to help benefit the work of the Packard Motor Car Foundation.



[Click Here](#) to view some highlights of the 2025 Gala

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 25, 2026 - when we will celebrate the 6th annual Great Gatsby Gala!

2025 PPG Upcoming Events

Mon, Apr 21st	Blood Drive
Sun, Apr 27th	Historic Speaker Series - History of Packard Proving Grounds
Sun, May 4th	North Oakland Mopar Muscle Car Show
Sat, May 17th	Opening Day of Shelby Farmers Market
Sun, Jun 1st	Simply Unique Handmade Market
Sat, Jun 7th	Packards & Pints
Sun, July 20th	Easy Rodders Car Show

Reminder Cars 'R' Stars car show has moved to Sunday, Sept 14th



Shelby Farmers Market

Opening day of the market takes place on Saturday, May 17th. The market is held on the front lawn of the Packard Proving Grounds from 9am-2pm each week.

Vendors can park their vehicle right next to their tent which is quite handy.

Returning and new vendors need to register for the 2025 season.

[Click here to register for the 2025 farmers market season](#)

Behind the Scenes at the PPG



PPG IT

Over the past few weeks, **Mike Nawrocki, Ken Snyder, and Joe Simmer** have been hard at work upgrading our aging network infrastructure, making it more secure, efficient, and easier to manage. The improved Wi-Fi system now offers faster speeds and better security, giving us greater flexibility in relocating desktop computers.

Additionally, internet connections in publicly accessible areas—such as login kiosks—are now restricted to internet-only access, preventing unauthorized access to our internal systems. Network issues can also be resolved more quickly and in ways that weren't possible before. For example, when we recently had to disconnect the library from our network due to an issue, it would have normally meant downtime until a new physical line was installed. However, with the new system, we were able to create a "virtual wire" to the library, allowing Kim and Christina to continue their work while the repair was underway.

These improvements were made possible thanks to our upgraded system and a generous contribution from **Mike Nawrocki** of [PelEcan Services](#)



Gems from the Vault

21391A

FILE #	
REC. NO.	21391A
DATE	OCT - 2 1941
MAIN GUIDE	PHOTOGRAPHY
SUB. GUIDE	
SUB. SUB. GUIDE	
REMARKS	See Inter Circle October 6, 1941

10



Extra Special Car For Circus Clown

By P. H. Connell

One of the remarkable Packard custom jobs was a 1941 coupe for Milt Taylor, star clown with the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus. Taylor was a veteran clown playing under the “big top” for more than 20 years. He greeted thousands of children daily at the circus entrance when they traveled around the country.

The Packard was a 1941 Deluxe coupe. The car is a Chassis ID 1900, Body Type 1485DE. Originally priced at \$907.00, it later went up to \$927.00. It was powered by a 245 CID L6 engine at 100 horsepower and had a 122 inch wheelbase. All interior trim, seats and bracing were removed. A small folding type seat was installed for the driver. Twenty or more full size and midget clowns, also a donkey piled into the interior.

With its windows blacked out Taylor drove the coupe into the big top arena with its horn blowing. Thousands roared with laughter as the donkey and all the clowns piled out. Milt Taylor is shown in both of these photos. In the group photograph he is in the last row standing on the extreme left. He is also seen sitting on the right fender of the Packard and still clowning it up!

See the Inner Circle Magazine article dated October 6, 1941. Every picture tells a story. History is wonderful. These photos are on file in the vault at the Packard Proving Grounds.

Honoring PPG Guardians



Honoring Packard's Guardians: The Legacy of Russ Murphy

Russ Murphy's connection to Packard began humbly. While attending college, he worked as a general maintenance man at the Packard Motor Car Company—jokingly referring to his role as

that of a “floor sweeper.” But his ambitions stretched far beyond the factory floor. After earning his degree in Civil Engineering from Lawrence Technological University in 1953, he embarked on a highly successful career in civil engineering, land surveying, and land planning. His work in designing storm drainage systems and multi-unit developments left a lasting impact on communities, but it was his dedication to the PMCF that secured his legacy within Packard’s storied past.

[Click here](#) to read the latest blog post by Chuck Ryntz and Amanda Demo-Sanford

Flyers for Upcoming Events at the PPG



GIVE HOPE THIS SPRING.
Give blood.
American Red Cross

Blood Drive
Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site
Repair Garage
49965 Van Dyke Avenue
Utica

Monday, April 21, 2025
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: PACKARDPG or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-753-2767).
Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Come give 474 to 475 for a Red Cross shirt, too, or a chance to win a \$40 prize redcross.org/PPG

1-800-RED-CROSS | 1-800-753-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES
The History of the Packard Proving Grounds

Visit the PPG on April 27 at 1:00 p.m. as Roger Luksik takes us through a brief history of the Packard Motor Car Company and the development of the proving grounds. He will highlight many “world’s first” records that happened at the PPG and explain why the Foundation is working hard to preserve the legacy of the products and people associated with this property.

Roger Luksik joined the Packard Motor Car Foundation board in 2013 as president and held that position through 2018. He began volunteering at the Packard Proving Grounds in 2001 and has been Vice President and Committee Chair for Finance, Grant Writing and Accreditation. He is a life member of the Packard Automobile Club and a 25+ year member of the Classic Car Club of America. Roger earned a B.S. and M.B.A. - Finance from Wayne State University. He owns two 1941 Packards, a convertible sedan and a business coupe.

Sunday April 27th
1-2pm
\$5 for not yet members
(FREE for members)

Presented by Roger Luksik

Purchase Tickets at:
PackardProvingGrounds.org
or April 27 Historical Speaker Series

49965 Van Dyke Ave., Shelby Twp, MI 48317
Call or text us at (562) 739-4889



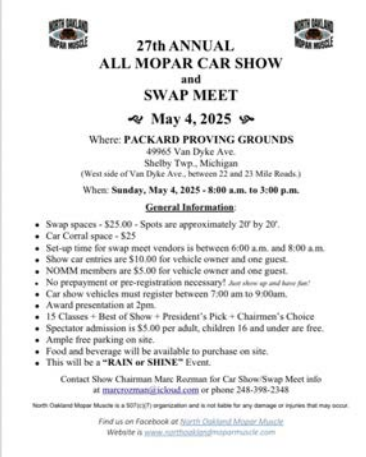
Shelby Farmers Market
at the Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site

EVERY SATURDAY
May 17 - Oct 18, 2025
9am-2pm
Rain or Shine
Well behaved dogs on a leash are welcome!

FREE Packard Proving Grounds Historical Site Tours
@ 10am & 11am
PackardProvingGrounds.org
Tours start at the info tent - sign up online, then check in when you arrive.

SHOP FRESH. SHOP LOCAL.
SHOP IN SHELBY TOWNSHIP

49965 Van Dyke Ave., Shelby Twp, MI 48317 | Call or text (562) 739-4889
PackardProvingGrounds.org/Shelby-Farmers-Market



27th ANNUAL ALL MOPAR CAR SHOW and SWAP MEET
May 4, 2025

Where: **PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS**
49965 Van Dyke Ave.
(West side of Van Dyke Ave. between 22 and 23 Mile Roads.)
When: **Sunday, May 4, 2025 - 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

General Information:

- Swap spaces - \$25.00 - Spots are approximately 20' by 20'.
- Car Corral space - \$25
- Set-up time for swap meet vendors is between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.
- Show car entries are \$10.00 for vehicle owner and one guest.
- NOMM members are \$5.00 for vehicle owner and one guest.
- No prepayment or pre-registration necessary! Just show up and have fun!
- Car show vehicles must register between 7:00 am to 9:00am.
- Award presentation at 2pm.
- 15 Classes - Best of Show - President's Pick - Chairmen's Choice
- Spectator admission is \$5.00 per adult, children 16 and under are free.
- Ample free parking on site.
- Food and beverage will be available to purchase on site.
- This will be a “RAIN or SHINE” Event.

Contact Show Chairman Marc Roeman for Car Show/Swap Meet info at marcroeman@packardpg.com or phone 248-396-2348.

North Oakland Motor Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization and is not liable for any damage or injuries that may result.

Find us on Facebook at [North-Oakland-Motor-Museum](https://www.facebook.com/North-Oakland-Motor-Museum)
Website: www.northoaklandmotormuseum.com



Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site
Calling All Twelves
A Salon Special Showing
May 27-29, 2025

We are delighted to revive the spirit of the automobile salons of the Classic Era with a unique Salon Special Showing at the historic Packard Proving Grounds site, exclusively for 1932-1939 Packard Twin Six and Twelve automobiles.

There is nothing quite like the feeling of driving your Packard on the pavements of the original Proving Grounds and experiencing the most significant surviving Packard Motor Car Company property firsthand. Join us in an exciting history, and honor these magnificent Packards, at the Proving Grounds this May.

Purchase Tickets at:
PackardProvingGrounds.org
or May 27-29 Calling All Twelves

49965 Van Dyke Ave.,
Shelby Twp, MI 48317
Call or text (562) 739-4889
PackardProvingGrounds.org/2025Salon



48th ANNUAL EASY RODDERS CHARITY CAR SHOW, SWAP MEET & CRAFT SHOW
Sunday, July 20, 2025
Rain - Swap (Awards Start at 2:30 P.M.)

PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS
49965 VAN DYKE AVE., SHELBY TWP. 48317
BETWEEN 22 & 23 MILE RD.

“Gandy Bags” for Pre-Registered Vehicles Only
Pre-Registered Vehicle Showing Price \$100

Swap Meet Registration
Pre-Registered \$10.00, all Swap \$20.00 (Swap \$20.00 includes 100' of Swap \$20.00 and 100' of Swap \$20.00)

Craft Registration
Pre-Registered \$10.00, all Swap \$20.00 (Swap \$20.00 includes 100' of Swap \$20.00 and 100' of Swap \$20.00)

CAR MEET! Swap & CRAFT MEET! Swap!
Swap open to the public at 9:00 a.m.

Awards
Top 48 Awards
Click here to view the list of awards

Prizes
100% of the swap meet proceeds will be donated to the most deserving charity.

Wait this for Pre-Registration for Easy Rodders of Michigan, 27300 Townsend, Warren, MI 48092
Phone: (588) 444-4444
For information Contact: Mike Roemer 562-739-4889
Swap Meet info call: Tony Lavigne 510-808-0707 tonylavigne@easyrodders.com
Crafts info call: Dave 562-248-6285

Make checks or money orders payable to: Easy Rodders

(Please print clearly):
Name _____ Signature _____
Address _____ Email to: _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Vehicle Model of Car _____ Year _____
Club Name of org _____
I understand I am responsible for my own vehicle. I understand I am responsible for my own vehicle. I understand I am responsible for my own vehicle.

Participants kindly ensure any and all risk for injury or damage to or caused by themselves, their family and others on Sunday, July 20, 2025 at Shelby, Michigan, and please ensure they are properly insured. We are not responsible for any damage to or caused by themselves, their family and others on Sunday, July 20, 2025 at Shelby, Michigan, and please ensure they are properly insured. We are not responsible for any damage to or caused by themselves, their family and others on Sunday, July 20, 2025 at Shelby, Michigan, and please ensure they are properly insured.

Click on the flyer images to save a .jpg file to share with your friends & family!

Friends of the PPG Membership

THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS GIFT SHOP

SPRING CLEANING *sale*



GET THEM BEFORE THEY'RE GONE!

Gift Shop purchases directly support the Packard Motor Car Foundation.

Shop at our online Gift Shop

Preserve the past.
Fuel the future.



SUPPORT
THE PMCF MISSION.

[Click here to make a donation to the Packard Motor Car Foundation](#)



Have a question?

You can call or text us at the PPG main phone
586-739-4800



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Our mailing address is:
Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site
49965 Van Dyke Ave. Shelby Twp, MI 48317

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