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PACKARD MOTOR CAR FOUNDATION PRESENTS

THE

JULY 2025

PACKARD PULSE

HONORING HISTORY, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS



Tank Test Center Building

Architect William Kapp might be impressed with all the work that has been done on the Tank Test building that he designed way back when.

In the last couple years it's been painted outside, which was quite a task for this size of a building + repairs of areas in need of replacement that were discovered along the way.

Next the building was refreshed on the inside by removing pipes that weren't original that had been added over the years, plus new electrical, and then it was completely painted on the inside. The floors were ground down and polished and special blinds were added to the large windows to help protect the classic Packards that are stored in this building.

The Employee Entrance arch from the original Packard Plant downtown was installed in the SE area for a wonderful connection to the Packard Motor Car Company. If you've not seen this building lately, you might want to check it out.

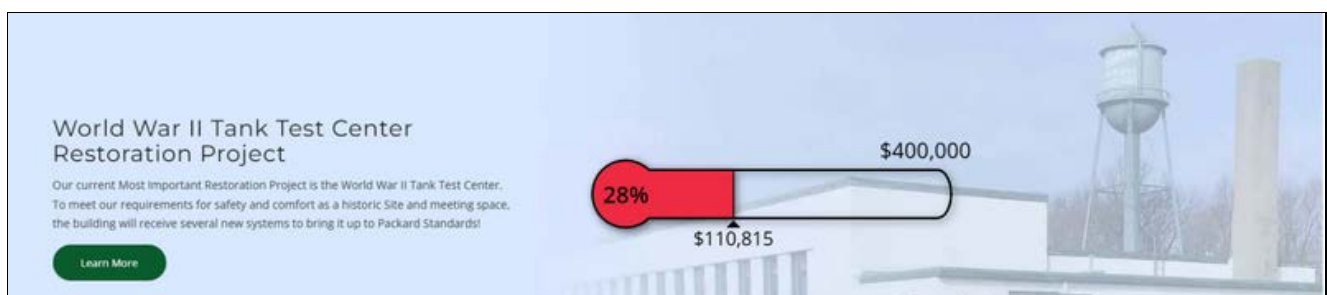
The next big step is to install a fire suppression system, and luckily the pipes in the building were tested and can be re-used, so that saved us a bit on this project. This is a water based system, so we must also install HVAC for this very large building, and the total cost of this project is just under \$400k.

Every member of our board has donated in an effort to raise these funds, plus many long time supporters have made donations and pledges. We've added a special thermometer onto the home page of our website to help us track our progress.



As you know, preserving this site takes more than admiration—it requires ongoing stewardship and support.

We invite you to help us continue this important work by making a tax-deductible donation to the **Packard Motor Car Foundation** which is a 501c3. Your contribution will directly support this special project and further our efforts to help ensure future generations can experience the rich history of Packard innovation in an authentic and meaningful way.



Make a Donation to the PMCF - TTC Project



New Garden Spaces

Special thanks to volunteers **Pat Prisbe, Ken Snyder and Pam Probst** for the lovely new garden area that is getting installed near the flag pole onsite at the PPG.

Thanks to **Bruce Webster** for raising the summer flag for the season.

Last year Pat envisioned this lovely rain garden to help discourage drivers from parking on the grass over a newly installed underground drainage area. This year we get to enjoy the fruits of this labor.

The best compliment came when a couple visiting for a site tour to consider the PPG as a venue for their upcoming wedding asked if they could hold their ceremony at this location!

Ken Snyder manages Building & Grounds for the PPG site, and he routinely goes above and beyond the call of duty. It's not unusual to see him assisting

with projects like this all over the site.

We are very blessed to have such a wonderful group of volunteers!



Volunteer Spotlight



Mike Borsuck and his 1934 Packard 100

Meet Michael Borsuck, a new volunteer whose journey with the Packard Proving Grounds (PPG) began many years ago. Michael and his wife own and operate **Studio 9 Salon**, a local business that has served many of the brides and staff associated with PPG over the years. “We’ve always found it a pleasure to work with the staff of the PPG,” Michael shared, and that long standing relationship has blossomed into something more.

Michael’s transition from vendor to volunteer was a natural step. “As I suspected while working over many years with the staff of PPG, they are a very organized and friendly group,” he noted. That welcoming environment made it easy for him to get involved and feel at home.

What makes the Packard Proving Grounds special to Michael? “It takes in many of my interests—Detroit history, automotive history, architectural history—and the chance to work with others who share those interests,” he explained. Whether he’s working under

the hood of a classic car or helping a bride enjoy her perfect day, Michael sees his work as a way to preserve and share the stories of the PPG history, “When guests visit the PPG, I believe they get a real appreciation of the quality and design of automobiles from a bygone era.”

Michael has been involved in several roles at PPG, including serving as a Driver for wedding events and contributing to the maintenance of the classic Packards. “I’ve enjoyed working with the brides on their wedding day,” he said, “and working on cars when a few tools can fix anything and you actually have room under the hood to do so.” Beyond the hands-on work, Michael values the community he’s found at PPG. “I’ve met a bunch of people who are helping me with my new 1934 Packard,” he said.

For those considering volunteering at PPG, Michael’s advice is simple: **“Go for it.”** He emphasizes the wide variety of roles available—from gardening and vehicle driving to helping with events or leading tours—and the sense of accomplishment that comes with each opportunity.

Outside of his volunteer work, Michael’s hobbies align closely with the mission of PPG. He enjoys automotive restoration, local history, and participating in special events. We are so grateful to have Michael as a new volunteer—his enthusiasm and dedication embody the spirit that keeps the Packard Proving Grounds thriving.

Explore Volunteer Opportunities @ the PPG

2025 PPG Upcoming Events

Saturdays	Shelby Farmers Market
Tue, July 15th	Blood Drive
Fri, July 18th	Simply Unique Night Market
Sun, July 20th	Easy Rodders Car Show
Sun, Aug 24th	PPG Wedding Garage Sale
Sun, Sept 9th	Historic Speaker Series
	Emblems that Moved Us
Fri, Sept 12th	Simply Unique Night Market
Sun, Sept 14th	Cars 'R' Stars Car Show

Gems from the Vault



100th Michigan State Fair Parade 1949

By P.H. Connell

The 100th annual Michigan State Fair opened with a colorful parade. Notable celebrities lead the procession of Packard automobiles. The date was September 3, 1949.

Governor G. Mennon Williams, Bob Hope and the Fair's General Manager James D. Friel led the motorcade of various automobiles. Festivities started with a ribbon cutting

ceremony. A two mile long parade followed. It started at Jefferson and then went north up Woodward to the Michigan State Fair Grounds.

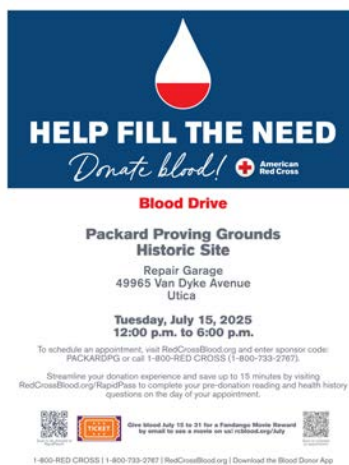
Two 23rd Series Packard Custom Convertible Victorias are shown. They could have been chassis number 2333 and body style 2359. They would have been equipped with 356 CID L8 engines at 160 horsepower. Ultramafic transmissions were standard on these cars; 127 inch wheelbases.

Notice the later grille changes and large turn signal lights as well as the full length body side trim. Only 60 of these late Custom Convertibles were built and sold as 1949 convertibles. 77 more were sold as 2333-5 1050 models.

1949 is also the same year that packard celebrated their Golden Anniversary 1899-1949.

Every picture tells a story. History is wonderful. These photos are on file in the Vault at the Packard Proving Grounds.

Flyers for Upcoming Events at the PPG



July 19th Special Kid's Entrepreneur Market Joins the Shelby Farmers Market

Young entrepreneurs will be showcasing their creative crafts and delicious treats, all handmade with love. It's a great chance to support budding business stars and enjoy a fun-filled day with community spirit and the charm of a historic setting. Don't miss out—come see us and be part of the

Regular full season (adult) vendors + some adult weekly vendors will also be at the market. This special Kids event is one week only.

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

Historic Speaker Series - Fall 2025

HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES

How The Packard Proving Grounds Was Saved

Hear the story of how John M. MacArthur saved his company's headquarters for 17 years from successful efforts at acquisition by the late Ian Mackenzie Packard Proving Grounds Inc.

Attendees will receive the full history of the Packard Club Company "The Packard Car Corporation" which contains a listing of all cars built by the company as well as Hardwood Lane Land Development Corporation. This presentation includes a tour of the grounds and photos behind the wheel of 1930s Packards. Meeting tickets are available by November date of two months.


John M. MacArthur

**Sunday
November 23rd
1-2pm**

\$5 (for non past members)
\$12 (\$2 fee nonmembers)

**Packard Tickets go to:
Packard Museum, Packardville,
P.O. Box 1905
#0000 Van Nuys Area, Seattle, WA 98145**
Call for more info: 206-781-1000





THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS GIFT SHOP

FAMILY CREST VINTAGE TEE



Shop at our online Gift Shop



The Detroit Lions mascot made an appearance at a recent wedding held at the the Packard Proving Grounds. Katy Wojtaszek, volunteer (left) and Jeannine Morris, Events Manager(right) both got a rare photo opportunity!

You just never know who you'll see onsite at the PPG.



Speaking of weddings, check out the lovely set up for this one! Decor by **Love Story Events**. This is the very same company that donated the decor for the Great Gatsby Gala held earlier this year. Amanda and Aaron are a husband & wife + dynamic decorating duo.





[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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