



Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site

49965 Van Dyke Ave Shelby Township, Michigan 48317

PackardProvingGrounds.org

586-739-4800

[View this email in your browser](#)



Image by Rick Mayer - 2024 Cars 'R' Stars Show

Annual Fall Open House

Our Annual Fall Open House is right around the corner, mark your calendar for Sunday, October 20th 1-5pm. For many this is one of the last car shows of the season, and it's open to all classic cars so it typically draws a wide variety.

It's a great time to walk through all the buildings to see what has been done onsite this year. Plus the gift shop will be open, and you can shop the bake sale for some

tasty treats. We're pleased that the Belgian American Association band will be joining the fun again this year.

We're excited to see who will win the 1956 Packard Patrician that we are raffling off this year. Proceeds go to the help support the Packard Motor Car Foundation.

We hope you can join us!



LAST CALL for your chance to win a 1956 Packard Patrician!

Purchase one raffle ticket for \$30 or two for \$50. The winner will be drawn at the Annual Fall Open House on Sunday, October 20th - you need not be present to win.

Click here to purchase tickets online, or stop by the site to buy some in person.

Proceeds benefit the Packard Motor Car Foundation a 501c3 nonprofit to help fund restoration work onsite at the Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site.



Let there be Light

This time of year it's dark when we arrive to set up for the farmers market so it was a great opportunity to check out the newly installed lights on the north side of the Tank Test Building. Thanks to Bruce Blevins who found these fixtures from a historic site in Connecticut and then he created the fittings and the Meccom Corporation bent the goose neck pipes at no charge. Dennis Olivieri facilitated the installation for a wonderful result.

The other lighting has been set up to assist with events and their late night trips to the dumpsters.

2024 PPG Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 13th Vintage & Handmade Market

Monday, October 14th - Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, October 19th - Final day of 2024 Farmers Market

Sunday, October 20th - Annual Fall Open House

Sunday, October 27th - The MI Hurricane Historic Lecture

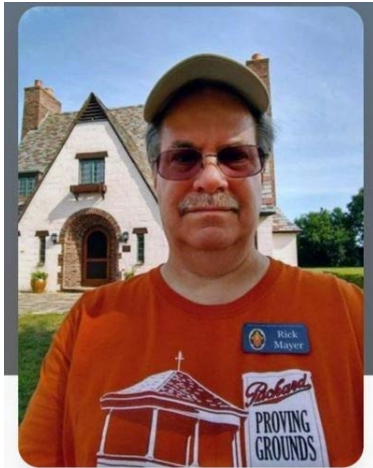
Friday, November 1st - Day of the Dead Celebration

Sunday, November 3rd - Harvest Holiday Market

Sunday, November 10th - The Polar Bears Historic Lecture

Sunday, November 10th - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Sunday, November 24th - Wedding Garage Sale



Here is a link to his [Obituary](#).

It is with deep sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of **Rick Mayer**.

Rick was a long time volunteer at the PPG. A hard core history buff, he volunteered as a docent and enjoyed sharing Packard history with anyone that expressed an interest.

We will treasure the plethora of photos in and around the PPG Rick has taken and generously shared with us over the years.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family at this difficult time.

Earlier this year we recreated a 1931 Salon which took place on the Packard Proving Grounds back in the day.

It was awesome to see such a beautiful collection of Packards lined up on the boulevard by the rows of elm trees.



We have set the date for the 2025 Salon and we're reaching out to the owners of Packard Twelves which includes the 1932 Twin Sixes all the way up to 1939s.

We'll share more specific details and the date draws near - stay tuned!

PackardProvingGrounds.org/2025Salon



Automotive Hall of Fame - 2024 Induction Ceremony

Congratulations to **John James, Sr** (center) who was recently inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame. John is a Trustee of the Packard Motor Car Foundation and we're thrilled that he was honored in this way. [Automotive Hall of Fame](#)

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES @ THE PPG



We're happy to offer the use of the Repair Garage building to the Red Cross for quarterly blood drives.

It's interesting to check out the stats after a blood drive. Here's what the Red Cross reported from the July 16th drive:

The blood that you collected will help up to 114 Hospital patients! (This is the IMPORTANT PART - since every blood donor can save up to 3 lives!)

Thanks to everyone that participated, you really made a huge difference in the lives of those in need. We really appreciate your kindness, generosity plus helping to make the world a better place.

Upcoming Blood Drive Dates

Monday, October 14, 2024 12-6pm

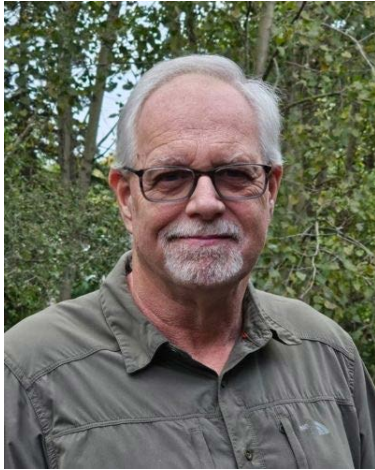
Tuesday, January 21, 2025 12-6pm

Visit RedCrossBlood.org to register and consider downloading the app so on the day of the blood drive you can answer all the medical questions ahead of time to help streamline the donation process.



Volunteer Spotlight - Gary Shostak

We are excited to shine this month's volunteer spotlight on Gary, a fairly new volunteer who is making a big impact at the Packard Proving Grounds (PPG). A longtime car enthusiast, Gary began his journey with PPG helping with the Farmers Market. Since then, his involvement has expanded to include being a Parking Attendant at many events and electrical projects. As a retired HVAC technician with a long career at Michigan



Bell/Johnson Controls and Selfridge Air Base, Gary brings his technical expertise to PPG, where it is greatly appreciated.

For Gary, volunteering at PPG was a natural fit. As he says, "As a longtime car guy, it was an easy choice to get involved." The variety of opportunities at PPG intrigued him, and he's enjoyed trying out different roles. Since starting his volunteer journey, Gary's understanding of PPG has evolved. He quickly realized there's so much more to do than what initially meets the eye. PPG isn't just about cars—it's about informing the community about a significant piece of Detroit's history that would otherwise be lost and forgotten. For Gary, the extensive history of Packard, including its contributions to the war effort, sets this organization apart from other opportunities.

One of Gary's most meaningful moments at PPG is when he hands out "thank you for your service" coins to veterans attending PPG events. This small but heartfelt gesture made a lasting impact, reminding him of the importance of acknowledging the contributions of others, whether veterans or fellow volunteers.

Gary has some advice for new volunteers: "... try the different volunteer roles, expand your knowledge and comfort zone."

Outside of PPG, Gary has a wide range of interests. He's an active member, past provost marshal, and bingo caller at the Amvets post in Armada, where he helps support veterans. He enjoys photography, where he was a former scuba and commercial diver and underwater photographer, rock hounding, reading, and cooking and baking with his wife Kathy.

Gary and Kathy, who have been married for 49 years, have a special needs son, Gary Jr., who lives with them. For him, volunteering at the PPG is a "very worthwhile use of my extra time to keep me active." His passion for history, cars, and service to the community makes him an invaluable part of our team.

We are truly grateful for everything Gary brings to PPG. Thank you, Gary, for your dedication and hard work. We're lucky to have you as part of the Packard Proving Grounds family!



Learn more about Volunteer Opportunities at the PPG



Rosie the Riveter Memorial Rose Garden

We created a rose garden near the SE corner of the Tank Test Building and each rose bush was planted in memory of a Packard “Rosie” who contributed to the war effort. Most of them won an award for their extraordinary efforts.

We were pleased to honor the memory of these special women along with a luncheon and a program titled “Heroes of the Home-front; Rosie the Riveter & the Women Who Helped Win the War” with visiting speaker Debra Wake.

Generously sponsored by:

The General Josiah Harmar Chapter NSDAR

The Old Settler's VFW Post 4659
Packard Motor Car Foundation



The Michigan WWII Historic Trail



The Packard Motor Car Foundation hopes to join the **Michigan WWII Historic Trail** to help showcase the Packard Proving Ground's Arsenal of Democracy involvement in WWII.

The Michigan WWII Historic Trail is a statewide opportunity for communities and businesses to celebrate their war heroes and triumphs. By highlighting significant WWII events, businesses or individuals, the Historical Trail will recognize the courage, ingenuity and resiliency shown when the country needed them most.

If you would like to make a donation to help in this endeavor, please mail a check made payable to 'Packard Motor Car Foundation' and include 'WWII Historic Trail' in the memo, and mail it to the Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site 49965 Van Dyke Shelby Twp, MI 48317 or **click on this link** to donate via credit card.

HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES

White Hurricane of 1913

Sunday
October 27th
1-2pm



Presented by
Charlie Shelton

The world's largest inland sea - the Great Lakes region - faces difficult weather in the month of November. The fury of unexpected storms can cause great damage. The White Hurricane of 1913 was one such storm. We delve into the history of this unknown once-in-a-lifetime tempest and learn how it impacted Michigan and the nation.

**Tickets \$5 for not yet members
and FREE for members**

Polar Bear Lecture

Sunday
November 10th
1-2pm



Presented by
Mike Grobbel

As a prolog to Veterans Day Mike will speak on the U.S. Army troop deployed to Russia during WWI and the Bolshevik Revolution. This basically Michigan group endured many hardships before their removal back to the U.S. Many are buried at White Chapel cemetery in Troy.

**Tickets \$5 for not yet members
and FREE for members**

Packard
PROVING GROUNDS
HISTORIC SITE



Purchase Tickets @
**PackardProvingGrounds.org/
HistoricalSpeakerSeries**

49965 Van Dyke Ave., Shelby TWP, MI 48317
Call or text us @ (586) 739-4800

[Packard Proving Grounds Membership - Click here to learn more](#)



[Gift Shop](#)

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



**Model
TRAIN SHOW**
at the Packard Proving Grounds



**November 30
& December 1
10am - 3pm**

Tickets \$6
Age 11 & under
FREE with
Adult Paid
Admission

**ADMIT
ONE**

Details at PackardProvingGrounds.org/TrainShow

For More Information Contact:
Mike at emike111@proving.com
or (248) 909-4537

Member Since: Nov. 2006 (746) 90-4027
Call or Email for more info



Help drive the
PMCF into
the future.

Donate to the
NOW Fund

DONATE TO THE NOW FUND



We sure get our share of pretty sunsets at the lovely Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site!

Have a question?

You can 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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