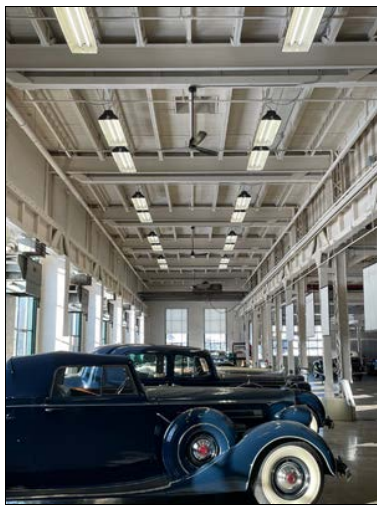


[View this email in your browser](#)



RESTORATION UPDATE

THE TANK TEST CENTER PROJECT



Collecting Stickers

Turns out, collecting stickers isn't just for kids! But the adult version of a sticker collection like this can get pretty pricey. Good news one down, a couple more to go in our journey to complete the TTC fire suppression / HVAC project

The four new HVAC units have now been installed on the roof of the Tank Test Center, and the first unit has successfully fired up — so far, so good. Electrical service upgrades are still needed before all four units can be fully operational, but we

are getting very close.

While the lift was onsite, it was a good time to get some original lights from the Packard Plant plus some fans installed in the TTC. Center image - Long time volunteer **Bruce Blevins** and Ken Briggs, right image is volunteer **Gary Shostak** installing one of the fans.

We're also pleased to share that the full \$400,000 projected cost of this major fire suppression and HVAC project has been raised. We are deeply grateful for the generosity and support of our community. This milestone represents tremendous progress, and we have learned a great deal along the way as we continue restoring this important piece of automotive history for future generations.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat, Feb 7th	The Wedding Collective
Sun, Feb 8th	HSS: Ocean to Ocean in a Model T
Sun, Feb 22nd	HSS: Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen
Sun, Mar 8th	HSS: Wills Sainte Claire Museum
Sun, Mar 22nd	HSS: Diego Rivera & the DIA Murals
Mar 28th & 29th	Metro Wood Carvers Show
Sun, Apr 12th	HSS: DeLorean Motor Company
Sun, Apr 12th	Wedding Garage Sale
Sun, Apr 19th	Spring Fling Handmade Market
Sat, Apr 25th	Great Gatsby Gala Fundraiser

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Meet Paul & Kurt Roman

For some volunteers, the Packard Proving Grounds becomes a place to give back. For Paul and Kurt Roman, it's also a place to work together — sharing time, skills, and a mutual appreciation for history.



The father-son duo began volunteering about a year ago and quickly found themselves drawn into the hands-on work that keeps the historic site running. Much of their time at the grounds is spent working side by side on building maintenance projects, including painting and repairs in the garages. Their efforts help ensure the historic structures remain well cared for and ready to welcome visitors, events, and everyday moments of discovery.

Kurt works alongside his father on these same projects, while also offering an additional creative skill when needed. With a background in photography and visual arts, he occasionally contributes photography and collages for Packard Proving Grounds events. “In a sense, we’re helping preserve history by keeping it up — and by capturing it, too,” Kurt shared.

Outside of volunteering, their interests naturally align with the work they do at Packard. Paul, now retired after a long career as a draftsman, has always been drawn to old buildings, automobiles, and history. Kurt shares that appreciation, along with a strong creative side. In addition to photography, he is a musician who plays guitar and participates in a local jazz band, blending technical skill with artistic expression.



Both describe their volunteer experience as meaningful and purposeful — grounded in preservation and steady contribution rather than fanfare. When asked what advice they would give to someone considering volunteering, the answer was simple:

“Expect to find real meaning in what you do.”

We’re grateful for volunteers like Paul and Kurt Roman, whose quiet dedication reminds us that preserving the past is often a hands-on effort — and sometimes, it’s best done together.

Get Involved - Explore Volunteer Opportunities at the PPG

THE
WEDDING COLLECTIVE
AT THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS



THE PLANNING EXPERIENCE
FEBRUARY 7, 2026
VIP ACCESS FOR PACKARD BRIDES AT 1 PM
MAIN SHOW | 2-4 PM
Admission \$10 | Packard Brides \$5

Packard PROVING GROUNDS
49965 Van Dyke Ave, Shelby Twp, MI 48317
Call or text (586) 739-4800
PackardProvingGrounds.org/WeddingCollective



METRO CARVERS OF MICHIGAN

PRESENTS THE 44TH
ARTISTIC CREATIONS IN WOOD
WOOD CARVING SHOW
THE TRADITION CONTINUES

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

\$8 Adults (2 for \$15)
\$5 Teens (Ages 13 to 20)
FREE
Ages 12 & Under & "Lean on Me" recipients with cane

➤ CARVINGS FOR SALE & VIEWING (Wood, Bone & Seagull Also Available)
➤ RAFFLES & DOOR PRIZES & DEMOS
➤ PEOPLE'S CHOICE COMPETITION (Voted Voted Determined by Award)
➤ CARVERS CHOICE COMPETITION (Carvers Participating in the Show Determine the Awards)

Admission includes Packard Displays

Contact - john.sabina@metrocarvers.com
248-224-2902
www.metrocarvers.com

Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site
49965 Van Dyke Ave, Shelby Twp, MI 48317
Between 22 & 23 Mile Roads



PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS

Wedding Garage Sale

Apr 12th
Aug 23rd
Nov 22nd
2026
1-3 pm

Open to the Public
\$5 entry fee per shopper



Sale spaces \$25 each
Visit PackardProvingGrounds.org/WeddingGarageSale/
or call/text (586) 739-4800 to register
49965 Van Dyke Ave, Shelby Twp, MI 48317

Packard PROVING GROUNDS

PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS

Spring Fling
Handmade Market

Sunday, April 19, 2026
noon to 4pm

Spring into the season by shopping local small businesses:

- Farmers
- Artisans
- Fresh Baked Goods
- Handcrafted Jewelry
- Unique Crafts
- Handmade Soaps
- 50+ Vendors
- And so much more!

Packard PROVING GROUNDS
49965 Van Dyke Ave, Shelby Twp, MI 48317
Call or text (586) 739-4800
PackardProvingGrounds.org/SpringFling
\$5 DONATION ADMISSION



at the Packard Proving Grounds

THE GREAT GATSBY
CALA FINE PAUSE



Saturday April 25, 2026
6-11 PM

Tickets \$100 per Person
Dinner, drinks, live music, and a roaring night hosted by Rooftop Raj from Fox 2 News

Packard PROVING GROUNDS

More info @ PackardProvingGrounds.org/GreatGatsby
49965 Van Dyke Ave, Shelby Twp, MI 48317 | Call or text (586) 739-4800

PACKARD'S & POURS
DRINKS • CARS • GOOD TIMES

Sponsored by
Manny's Liquor & Wine Store

Saturday, June 13, 2026 • 6-10pm

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$50+
Your Tickets Include:
• Beer, wine & cocktail sampled
• 10 sampling tickets included
• Tours of historic Packard cars
• Food available for purchase from food trucks

CLASSIC CAR SHOW
• \$25 per vehicle
• Includes vehicle display space, event publication, and parking on the lot
• Pop and water tickets included
• *Additional sampling not included

Classic cars may enter beginning at 5pm

Craft beverage sampling stations | Classic & collector car display | Food Trucks | Tours of the historic Packard Proving Grounds

Packard PROVING GROUNDS
49965 Van Dyke Ave, Shelby Twp, MI 48317
Call or text (586) 739-4800
PackardProvingGrounds.org/PackardsPours
Rain or Shine




Packard Farmers Market

Where History meets Harvest

The Packard Farmers Market returns for the 2026 season on the front lawn of the PPG bringing together local farmers, artisans, bakers, makers, and local businesses in a one-of-a-kind setting where history and community meet.

Formerly known as the Shelby Farmers Market, the newly rebranded Packard Farmers Market reflects its deep connection to the Packard Proving Grounds and its mission to support the

preservation of this iconic historic site. The market runs Saturdays from **May 16 through October 10, 2026**, from **9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Each week, the market is arranged in neat rows across the front lawn, offering a relaxed, walkable shopping experience. Vendors may park directly next to their booths, and the grass setting provides a cooler summer atmosphere ideal for tent setups. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome. The market is supported by Packard Proving Grounds volunteers and local high school students earning community service hours.

New this year, we are adding sponsorship opportunities! This is especially good for local businesses that are interested and want to become more involved in the farmers market. See the flyer below for more details, and contact **MaryAnne@PackardProvingGrounds.org** if you are interested in learning more about this new program for the 2026 season.

The Packard Farmers Market is open on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends and will be closed Saturday, July 4th. Returning vendors must register each year, and new vendors are welcome - **[click here](#)** to register.

If you're interested in volunteering at the farmers market contact **DonnaShiner.PPG@gmail.com**



**SATURDAYS AT THE
PACKARD PROVING
GROUNDS**

**MAY 16 -
OCT 10, 2026**

9am-2pm (Rain or Shine)

*Where History
& Harvest Meet*

Packard PROVING GROUNDS
49965 Van Dyke Ave., Shelby Twp, MI 48317
Call or text (586) 739-4800

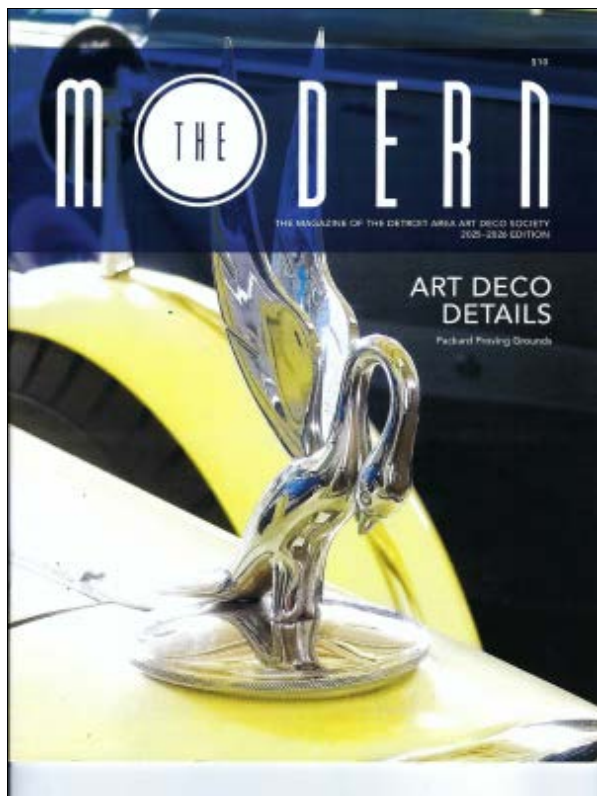
Proud member of the
MICHIGAN FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION

THE MARKET WILL BE CLOSED ON SATURDAY, JULY 4TH, BUT OPEN ON MEMORIAL WEEKEND & LABOR DAY WEEKEND.
VENDORS PRE-REGISTER ON FRIDAY BEFORE THE MARKET BY TEXTING US AT 586-739-4800 \$30 WEEKLY

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

PRESENTING SPONSOR "History & Harvest Partner" - \$5,000 BENEFITS: • "Packard Farmers Market presented by [Business Name]" recognition • Logo featured prominently on: - Farmers Market webpage - Market signage at every market - Social media sponsor thank-you posts (minimum 4) • Dedicated Sponsor Theme Day at the market (branded signage + shout-outs) • Vendor-style booth space at up to 4 market days • Opportunity to host a complimentary private event at the Packard Proving Grounds (ideal for client appreciation, staff gathering, or customer event - date coordinated) • Recognition in press releases and media outreach • Verbal recognition during market announcements throughout the season	SILVER SPONSOR Local Supporter - \$1,250 BENEFITS: • Name/logo on website sponsor page • Booth space at up to 2 market days • One social media spotlight post • Sponsor signage at the market • Verbal recognition during the season • Option to sponsor a specific feature (kids' activities, music, dog-friendly day, etc.)
GOLD SPONSOR Community Champion - \$2,500 BENEFITS: • Logo on website and seasonal market signage • One sponsored theme week at the market • Booth space at up to 3 market days • Social media recognition (minimum 3 posts) • Inclusion in sponsor thank-you signage • Opportunity to include branded giveaways or coupons at the market • Recognition during weekly market announcements	BRONZE SPONSOR Small Business Ally - \$500 BENEFITS: • Name listed on website and sponsor signage • Booth space at 1 market day • Social media thank-you mention • Recognition as a supporter of PPG preservation
MARKET FRIEND (Entry-Level/Add-On) - \$250 BENEFITS: • Name listed on website sponsor page • Group sponsor signage at the market • Ideal for small businesses wanting visibility and goodwill	
OPTIONAL ADD-ONS (Any Level) • Sponsor a specific market feature (music, kids' crafts, dog-friendly day) • Co-branded giveaways or sampling • Sponsored hydration station or seating area • Cross-promotion with business social media	

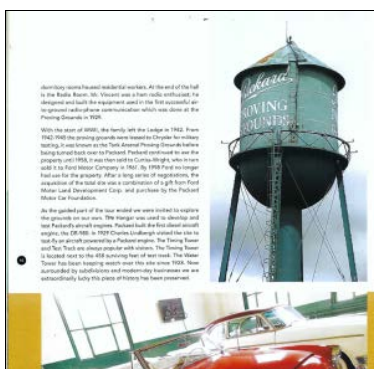
To secure your sponsorship or for more information, contact Mary Anne Demo maryanne@packardprovinggrounds.org or (586)-739-4800



Detroit Area Art Deco Society

We were delighted to welcome a recent group tour from the Detroit Area Art Deco Society to the Packard Proving Grounds. It was an added pleasure to discover a wonderful article about the site in *The Modern*, the Society's publication.

Our sincere thanks to **Al Trombetta** and **Gary Spondike** for their extra efforts on this project. Introducing new visitors to the Proving Grounds is always exciting, and it's a great reminder of how many people share a passion for celebrating and preserving these remarkable design elements.





GEMS FROM THE VAULT

OHIO CELEBRATES 150th ANNIVERSARY WITH A PARADE

by P.H. Connell



Prominent Ohioans were invited back to take part in a sesquicentennial celebration in October 1953. This was the 150th anniversary of Ohio statehood. On March 1, 1803 Ohio was admitted to the Union as the 17th state. This was a year-long historical birthday observance.

60 individuals were given special invitations. Many Ohio notables including Bob Hope, Jim Nance, Charles Kettering, Eddie Rickenbacker, Dr Norman Vincent Peale and Jesse Owens had roots in the state of Ohio.

Photographed here are James J. Nance, President of the Packard Motor Car Company and

Charles F. Kettering, early GM Research Director, innovator and investor. The homecoming climaxed with a parade and luncheon.

The car in the photo is a 1954 Packard Caribbean Convertible Chassis ID 5431 Body Type 5478. It was powered by a 359 CID L8 engine at 212 horsepower. The date of this photograph was October 19, 1953. The photo location was Cleveland, Ohio.

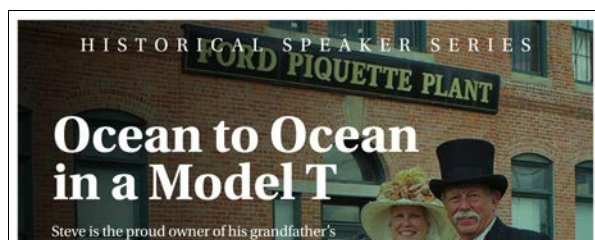
Every picture tells a story. History is wonderful. These photographs - and more than 14,000 others - are preserved in the Vault at the Packard Proving Grounds.



Meet **Pat Connell**, the man behind the Gems from the Vault series. He is a long time PPG volunteer and has spent SO many hours reviewing, analyzing and cataloging historic photos. Thank you Pat for sharing these interesting historic tidbits with us!

HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES

Click on the flyer images, then right click and select 'save image as' to save a .jpg file that you can share with your friends & family and help us spread the word!



1916 Model T. He and his wife, Jan, are frequently found driving their Model T just about everywhere. Steve's most memorable trip was driving his Model T in the "Ocean to Ocean" event from New York City to Seattle. Steve will be making a presentation for us on this incredible 4,000+ mile trip in his Model T - a true journey of a lifetime!

**Sunday
February 8th
1-2pm**

\$5 for not yet members
(FREE for members)

Presented by
Steve Shotwell

Purchase Tickets @
PackardProvingGrounds.org/
Feb8-HSS-PPG

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




surgeon and make a place for women in the medical field. During her 59-year career, she pioneered surgical techniques, founded the American Medical Women's Association and traveled the world visiting her "surgical daughters." Along the way, Dr. Bertha remained devoted to her familial roots in present day Rochester Hills, Michigan.

**Sunday
February 22th
1-2pm**

\$5 for not yet members
(FREE for members)

Presented by
Samantha Lawrence

Purchase Tickets @
PackardProvingGrounds.org/
Feb22-HSS-PPG

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




HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES

C Harold Wills and the Wills Sainte Claire Story

Terry is a founder and has been the Executive Director of C.H. Wills, Sainte Claire Auto Museum of Maryville for the past 25 years. He is a past president of the National Association of Automobile Museums and a current board member. He is a Life Member of the Packard Proving Grounds.

Terry and Jan own 14 unique cars including a Wills Sainte Claire Roadster and a 1936 12 cylinder Packard Roadster. Before retiring, Terry owned a camera store in Port Huron and additionally was a professional Photographer for 40 years. Terry enjoys learning new things about C. Harold Wills and the importance to the early auto industry. Terry and his wife Rita reside in Port Huron.

**Sunday
March 8th
1-2pm**

\$5 for not yet members
(FREE for members)

Presented by
Terry Ernest

Purchase Tickets @
PackardProvingGrounds.org/
Mar8-HSS-PPG

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




HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES

Diego Rivera: The Detroit Industry Murals at the DIA

Diego Rivera was celebrated for his murals. He covered more walls with fresco than any other artist. The Detroit Institute of Arts boasts the fresco cycle Diego Rivera called his "finest work." How did the DIA get the most famous mural painter to come paint its walls? What is so special about what he accomplished in just 11 months in Detroit? These and other questions, as well as art historian Wendy Evans will explore in a richly illustrated presentation.

**Sunday
March 22nd
1-2pm**

\$5 for not yet members
(FREE for members)

Presented by
Wendy Evans

Purchase Tickets @
PackardProvingGrounds.org/
Mar22-HSS-PPG

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




HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES

The Rise and Fall of the DeLorean Motor Company

Chris Duvall will discuss John DeLorean's early years, education and work experience. He will also discuss 1. John's vision for his car and look at the DMC 12 to understand his vision including design and engineering and 2. how the company came to be manufactured in Ireland and the growing pains that the company could not overcome. He will end with what is going on with the current DeLorean community.

**Sunday
April 12th
1-2pm**

\$5 for not yet members
(FREE for members)

Presented by
Chris Duvall

Purchase Tickets @
PackardProvingGrounds.org/
Apr12-HSS-PPG

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




Purchase Tickets

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Our sincere thanks to these individuals who have agreed to serve on the PMCF board of trustees.

We look forward to a productive year ahead and appreciate your time, energy and guidance.

THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS GIFT SHOP

ROSES ARE RED,
THESE SHIRTS
ARE TOO.

BUY ONE FOR
YOUR VALENTINE,
AND ANOTHER
FOR YOU.

Three shirts are displayed against a background of soft-focus red roses. Two maroon long-sleeved shirts are shown: one from the front with a small "Packard" logo on the chest, and one from the back with a larger "Packard PROVING GROUNDS" logo. A red short-sleeved t-shirt is shown from the front, featuring the "APPROVED Packard SERVICE" circular logo.

Gift Shop purchases directly support the Packard Motor Car Foundation.

Shop Now

THE GREAT GATSBY

GALA FUNDRAISER

at the Packard
Proving Grounds



Saturday
April 25, 2026
6-11 PM

Tickets
\$100 Per Person

Dinner, drinks, live music,
and a roaring night hosted by

Roop Raj
from Fox 2 News



More info @ PackardProvingGrounds.org/GreatGatsby
49965 Van Dyke Ave., Shelby Twp., MI 48317 | Call or Text (586) 739-4800



2026 Great Gatsby Gala

Join us for a night of glamour and nostalgia while supporting a great cause. Consider purchasing a table of 8 and invite four couples to enjoy this wonderful evening together.

If you can't be in the area for the big night, you can still make a difference as a sponsor for this important event. For more information on tickets and sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to Jeannine@PackardProvingGrounds.org

Don't miss out on this chance to celebrate and support the Packard Proving Grounds and the Packard Motor Car Foundation!





SUPPORT THE PMCF MISSION.

Preserve the past.

Fuel the future.



Donate Today



586-739-4800 Call or text us
We're happy to help!



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Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site
49965 Van Dyke Ave. Shelby Twp, MI 48317

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