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THE TANK TEST CENTER HAS OCCUPANCY



It's been a long time coming, but we can finally say that the Packard Motor Car Foundation indeed has occupancy of the Tank Test Center building!





UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat, Jun 13th	Packards & Pours
Sun, Jun 28th	SDAC-35 Car Show
Fri, Jul 10th	Salute our Warriors Fundraiser
Tue, Jul 14th	Blood Drive
Sun, Jul 19th	Easy Rodders Car Show
Fri, Jul 24th	Simply Unique Night Market
Wed, Aug 19th	Blood Drive
Sun, Aug 23rd	Wedding Garage Sale

PACKARDS & POURS

DRINKS • CARS • GOOD TIMES

Supported by



Manny's Liquor & Wine Store
at the Packard Proving Grounds

Saturday, June 13, 2026 • 6-10pm

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$50

Your Tickets Include:

- Beer, wine & cocktail samples
- 10 sampling tickets included
- Tours of historic Packard site

Food available for purchase from food trucks

CLASSIC CAR SHOW*

- \$25 per vehicle
- Includes vehicle display space, event admission, and parking on the boulevard
- Pop and water tickets included

*Alcohol 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



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





SATURDAYS AT THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS
MAY 16 - OCT 10, 2026
9am-2pm (Rain or Shine)
Where History & Harvest Meet




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





Celebrate
MORE LIFE. GIVE BLOOD.



Blood Drive

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

Tuesday, July 14, 2026
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: PACKARDPG or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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.

Give blood July 13 to 31 for a Fandango Movie Reward by email to see a movie on us! rcblood.org/July

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

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GEMS FROM THE VAULT

Millionth Packard Built April 23, 1947

by P.H. Connell

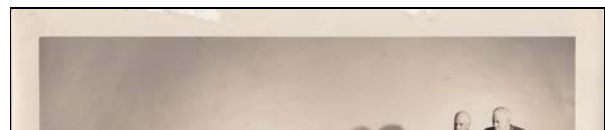
Packard celebrated it's millionth car built from 1899 to 1947. The vehicle was a 1948 Super 8 22nd Series Convertible Victoria. The early release pull ahead date for all 1948 models was officially September 8, 1947 but this pre-production example was assembled April 23, 1947 to be the millionth car built.

The milestone car worried brass at the Packard Motor Car Company in the manufacturing end. George Reifel, President of Manufacturing, Floyd Bird, Factory Manager and George Brodie, Assistant to George Christopher had assured everyone that the vehicle would roll off the line at 3pm. When vehicle 1,000,000 arrived exactly on time there was a collective sigh of relief.

Company President George Christopher is show behind the wheel in the photo below. Board Chairman Alvan Macauley is shown in the photo on the left.

On the day this car was built Board Chairman Alvan Macauley walked all the way down the assembly line that he himself had put into the big plant. He wouldn't ride. He joined Packard 37 years previously, long before assembly lines were even dreamed of. "I'm the proudest man here!" said Macauley. In retrospect, he too was one in a million!

The 1948 22nd Series Convertible Victoria was Chassis ID 2232 Body Type 2279. Production vehicles were equipped with 327 CID Super 8 Engine at 150 Horsepower and had a 120 inch wheelbase. It had a price of \$83,250 and drew 4,750 orders.





Every picture tells a story. These photos and 14,000 more are on file in the Vault at the Packard Proving Grounds.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Meet Sophie Griesbeck.

For Sophie Griesbeck, volunteering at the Packard Proving Grounds started with curiosity — and a feeling she couldn't quite shake. After years of passing the property and wondering what was hidden beyond the overgrown landscape, she saw a call for volunteers in the local paper and thought, "I've got to see what's back there."

That simple curiosity turned into something much deeper.

"I have a passion for the Packard Proving Grounds," Sophie shared. "You go there and you're stepping back in time."

A Shelby Township resident for more than three decades, Sophie remembers watching the property sit in decline and wondering what stories lived behind the gates. When volunteers began gathering to help restore and reimagine the site, she joined in — attending early meetings in the Lodge and becoming one of the volunteers who saw possibility in what the grounds could become.

"I just thought, this could be something phenomenal," she said.

Over the years, Sophie has watched the Packard Proving Grounds grow from a bare-bones effort powered by volunteers into the thriving historic site and community gathering place it is today. From car shows and special events to weddings and

preservation efforts, seeing the grounds brought back to life has remained one of the most meaningful parts of her experience.

“To see what it is today — it just warms my heart,” she shared.

Along the way, Sophie also found something else: community. She speaks warmly of the friendships formed through volunteering, especially her relationship with longtime volunteer Sue Tolonen, whom she describes as a mentor.

Sue and her husband, longtime volunteers whose dedication helped inspire the Packard Proving Grounds’ annual Tolonen Volunteer Award, left a lasting impression on Sophie. Their quiet stewardship, generosity, and care for the site reflected the kind of spirit that first drew her in — people who simply showed up, worked hard, and cared deeply about preserving something meaningful.

Though Sophie laughs that she mostly walks around like the “Packard bouncer,” gently helping visitors find what they need and making sure things are running smoothly, her role reflects something much bigger: care. Whether greeting guests, helping at events, or simply making people feel welcome, Sophie has always approached volunteering with warmth and enthusiasm.

And for her, the Packard Proving Grounds has always been about more than cars.

“People need to experience places like this,” she said. “We need to preserve history.”

She hopes younger generations will continue carrying that mission forward — learning the stories behind places like the Proving Grounds and appreciating the people and innovation that shaped them.

Outside of volunteering, Sophie continues to find ways to care for others. A retired therapist and psychologist who now substitute teaches part-time, she describes her favorite role simply as being a mom and grandma to her two children and five grandchildren — “the joy of my life,” as she calls them. She also enjoys traveling, helping neighbors in her community, and hopes to visit the former Yugoslavia to see the birthplace of her parents, who survived World War II as prisoners of war.

These days, Sophie lives farther from the Proving Grounds than she once did, but her affection for the place hasn’t faded.

“I’ve enjoyed every minute being there,” she said. “It’s part of history.”

For Sophie, volunteering at the Packard Proving Grounds has never been about recognition. It has simply been about showing up for a place she believes in — helping preserve a little piece of history for the generations still to come.



Explore Volunteer Opportunities

HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES

COMING FALL 2026

SEPT 13th

Route 66 in a Chevy '57 | *Bob Feldmaier*

SEPT 27th

The Hodge Estate | *Charlie Shelton*

OCT 4th

Albert Kahn & the Packard Investors | *John Cole*

OCT 25th

Gems from the Vault | *Pat Connell*

NOV 15th

Desert Storm | *Rock Marcone*

