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PACKARD MOTOR CAR FOUNDATION PRESENTS

THE

MARCH 2026

PACKARD PULSE

HONORING HISTORY, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS



ROAD TRIP

This lovely 1938 Packard is prepped and ready to visit the **Classic Car Club of America Museum** for a special display. Thanks to **Dennis Shepherd**, volunteer for his amazing detailing work!

Beginning April 10, the 1938 Packard Twelve 1607 will be featured in a new exhibition at the Classic Car Club of America Museum titled *Hidden Treasures* –

Classics Preserved in the Shadows of War. The exhibit tells the remarkable stories of three Full Classics that were intentionally concealed across Europe during World War II to prevent their seizure by invading forces. The Packard—once hidden at an estate in France—will be displayed alongside a 1939 Buick and a 1931 Duesenberg, with immersive environments recreating the spaces where these automobiles were protected and preserved during the war.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this amazing car.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun, Mar 22nd
Mar 28th & 29th
Sun, Apr 12th
Sun, Apr 12th
Sun, Apr 19th
Sat, Apr 25th
Sun, Apr 26th
Sat, May 16th
Wed, Jun 3rd

HSS: Diego Rivera & the DIA Murals
Metro Wood Carvers Show
HSS: DeLorean Motor Company
Wedding Garage Sale
Spring Fling Handmade Market
Great Gatsby Gala Fundraiser
HSS: The California Gold Rush
Packard Farmers Market KICKOFF
3rd Annual Packard Salon



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Meet Jon Hatfield.

When Jon Hatfield agreed to be featured in the Packard Proving Grounds Volunteer Spotlight, it wasn't because he was seeking recognition.

"If it will help recruit other volunteers or influence somebody to support us financially, then I'm all in," he said.

"Other than that, I'm not interested in having my story told."

That humility has defined much of his life.

A lifelong Packard enthusiast based in Central Virginia, Jon had been following the progress of the Packard Proving Grounds for more than two decades. From the early days of the Foundation securing the property to its steady restoration and growth, he watched with admiration as Packard people worked to reclaim an irreplaceable piece of automotive history.

Through years of involvement in the Packard hobby, Jon developed close friendships within the community, including Bruce Blevins. Later, Mark Smucker joined Jon's Old Dominion Packard Club and participated in club tours, further strengthening his connection to the Proving Grounds and its mission.

What stood out to Jon was not just the preservation of buildings, but what the site represents.

"It was owned by Packard, and it has been revived by Packard people," he said. "What has been preserved is the perfect part of it to allow us to tell the Packard story going forward."

The Proving Grounds is more than historic architecture. It is the last remaining Packard-owned property — a site where groundbreaking engineering advancements took place during the golden era of the American automobile. It is a place of innovation, of testing, of "firsts." Today, it also serves as a vibrant community gathering place, hosting educational programs, tours, and events — all sustained in large part by the dedication of its volunteers.

When Jon was invited to serve on the Board of Trustees, it was a natural extension of both his professional background and his commitment to preservation. Having spent 20 years as

Executive Director of the Virginia War Memorial — transforming it from a static monument into a dynamic educational institution — he brought decades of leadership in fundraising, stewardship, and long-term sustainability.

He served a three-year term on the Board, including as Chairman of the Fundraising Committee. During that time, he helped raise approximately \$200,000 toward the restoration and completion of the Tank Test Center — a milestone achievement that supports the continued evolution of the site.

“The end goal is in sight. That's what's important.”



Even after stepping down from the board following a health event, Jon continues to contribute from nearly 1,500 miles away — writing annual appeal letters, offering guidance, and encouraging fellow Packard enthusiasts to visit and support the Foundation.

“All of us in the Packard hobby can find something to do to support the hobby,” he said. “If you’re not contributing in some way... you don’t get as much out of it.”

For Jon, service has always been less about position and more about purpose.

A retired U.S. Army veteran, he later devoted more than three decades to public service with the Commonwealth of Virginia. Under his leadership, the Virginia War Memorial expanded dramatically in both programming and footprint, ensuring that history would not simply be remembered, but taught and understood by future generations.

He remains active in Rotary International — whose motto, “Service Above Self,” mirrors his own philosophy — along with the Ruritan Club, his church leadership, and the American Legion.

“To whom much is given, much is expected,” he said. “I feel very blessed.”

His love of preservation is reflected not only in his service, but in his own garage. Today, he cares for three distinctive Packards — a rare 1936 Twelve two-door five-passenger coupe, a 1948 Woodie station sedan, and a 1955 Caribbean — each representing the innovation and

legacy the Proving Grounds exists to protect.

When asked what he would tell someone considering volunteering at the Proving Grounds, Jon's response was simple and sincere:

“Regardless of where you come from or what you do, you could do something to help. Volunteering is good for the soul.”

Jon Hatfield may prefer to serve quietly, but his life tells a consistent story: preservation matters, service matters, and giving back strengthens both the places we care about and the people who sustain them. The Packard Proving Grounds is fortunate to count him among those who continue to invest in its future — not for recognition, but for the mission itself.



Get Involved - Explore Volunteer Opportunities at the PPG



METRO CARVERS OF MICHIGAN

PRESENTS THE 4TH 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

Admission Includes Packard Displays

► CARVINGS FOR SALE & VIEWING (Wood, Tools & Supplies Also Available)
► RAFFLES & DOOR PRIZES & DEMOS
► PEOPLE'S CHOICE COMPETITION (Native Vines Determine the Awards)
► CARVERS CHOICE COMPETITION (Carvers Participating in the Show Determine the Awards)

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

See you there!

Visit PackardProvingGrounds.org/WeddingGarageSale/
or call/text (586) 739-4886 to register
49965 Van Dyke Ave., Shelby Twp., MI 48317



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!

See you there!

49965 Van Dyke Ave., Shelby Twp., MI 48317
Call or text (586) 739-4886
PackardProvingGrounds.org/SpringFling
\$5 DONATION ADMISSION





Packard Farmers Market

Where History & Harvest Meet

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

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS



PRESENTING SPONSOR

"History & Harvest Partner" – \$5,000

BENEFITS:

- "Packard Farmers Market presented by [Business Name]" recognition
- Logo featured prominently on:



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

- 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

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

- Sponsor signage at the market
- Verbal recognition during the season
- Option to sponsor a specific feature (kids' activities, music, dog-friendly day, etc.)

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

FROM THE PACKARD BLOG

RETIREMENT REIMAGINED: YOUR NEXT CHAPTER STARTS HERE

by Amanda Demo





Volunteering at the Packard Proving Grounds is powered by a vibrant, multi-generational community. Students completing community service volunteer hours, working professionals giving back when their schedules allow, longtime history enthusiasts, and retirees all contribute to the energy that keeps this historic site active and welcoming.

For those newly retired, stepping into that community can be especially meaningful. Retirement opens the door to something many people have been waiting for - the freedom to explore interests, revisit long-held curiosities, and choose how to spend their time. At the PPG, that freedom often turns into connection, purpose, and discovery.

Read the [full article](#) and explore how retirement can be reimagined.

GEMS FROM THE VAULT

PACKARD REWARDED LOYAL EMPLOYEE SERVICE

by P.H. Connell





President Alvan Macauley realized the value of loyal continuous employee service to the company. He created a group called the Packard Senior League. Such devoted service was recognized.

Starting in 1918 through 1951 Packard men were awarded a 14 carat gold pocket watch as recognition. Early pocket watches were manufactured by Waltham 1918-1929 and later by Hamilton 1929 - 1951.

Packard wrist watches were also available for men who were devoted Senior League members, manufactured from 1932 - 1951 and in a ladies style 1932 - 1951. Later, ladies could also get an eight piece set of Rogers silverware. The pattern was Eternally Yours.

Awards were usually presented at dinner for eligible employees and their families later in the year, usually December. The location varied; sometimes at the Masonic Temple, one time at the Fox Theater, or at Rackham Memorial. Some presentations were just done at the plant.

By 1951 nearly 12,000 employees had received such recognition. Among 8,500 workers still employed there were 1,500 that had also been with Packard 25 years or

longer. Dealers awarded gold watches too.



Generations of loyal family members worked at Packard. Employee Edna Waddell and her father Bill Shephard both got watches on the same day 10/21/1940. Employee Harley Whitmore got a watch in 1947. Both his father and grandfather got watches in past years. Many more examples could be cited. *"Now they can't be late."*

This photo shows an honor roll of early cherished Packard employees with 25 years of continuous service. Their start dates with Packard are also visible. The earliest start date is 1901. This plaque was proudly displayed in the lobby of the main office building 13.

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.

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!

HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES

Diego Rivera: The Detroit Industry Murals at the DIA

Diego Rivera was celebrated for his murals. He covered more walls with frescos 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? Those and other stories are what 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/



HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES

The Rise and Fall of the DeLorean Motor Company

Chris Duvall will discuss John DeLorean's early years, education and work experiences. 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/



Purchase Tickets

THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS GIFT SHOP

IT'S TIME FOR A
**SPRING
CLEANING**

Interested in repping your
favorite historic site?

Throughout the month of
March, take **40%** off all
GETTEES-brand Est. 1928
crewneck sweatshirts and
hoodies and help us make
room for new merch!

Gift Shop purchases directly support the Packard Motor Car Foundation.



Shop Now

Preserve the past.



Donate Today



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



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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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