

[View this email in your browser](#)



THE GREAT GATSBY GALA RETURNS IN STYLE

On April 25th, The Packard Proving Grounds came alive once again as guests gathered for the annual Great Gatsby Gala - an evening inspired by the glamour, elegance and energy of the Roaring Twenties.

With nearly 250 guests in attendance, the grounds were filled with conversation, music and celebration from start to finish. From the moment guests arrived, the atmosphere reflected the very spirit of the era that shaped the site - thoughtful, refined and full of life.

The success of the evening was made possible through the support of our sponsors, partners,

volunteers and community, whose contributions helped bring the event to life in meaningful ways. Just as importantly, the evening served its purpose as a fundraiser, supporting the ongoing preservation and restoration of this historic site.

We are especially grateful to the many sponsors and supporters who played a role in this year's event. You can view our full list of partners in this year's virtual book. A special thank you to Adrienne & Amber Photography for the wonderful moments they were able to capture, as well.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for an unforgettable evening - and for continuing to support the future of the Packard Proving Grounds.

2026 Virtual Book

2026 Highlights

GEMS FROM THE VAULT
NINTH ANNUAL PACKARD EMPLOYEE OUTING AT TASHMOO
PARK
by P.H. Connell

Packard EMPLOYEES PAPER

Volume Two

JULY, 1919

Number Thirteen



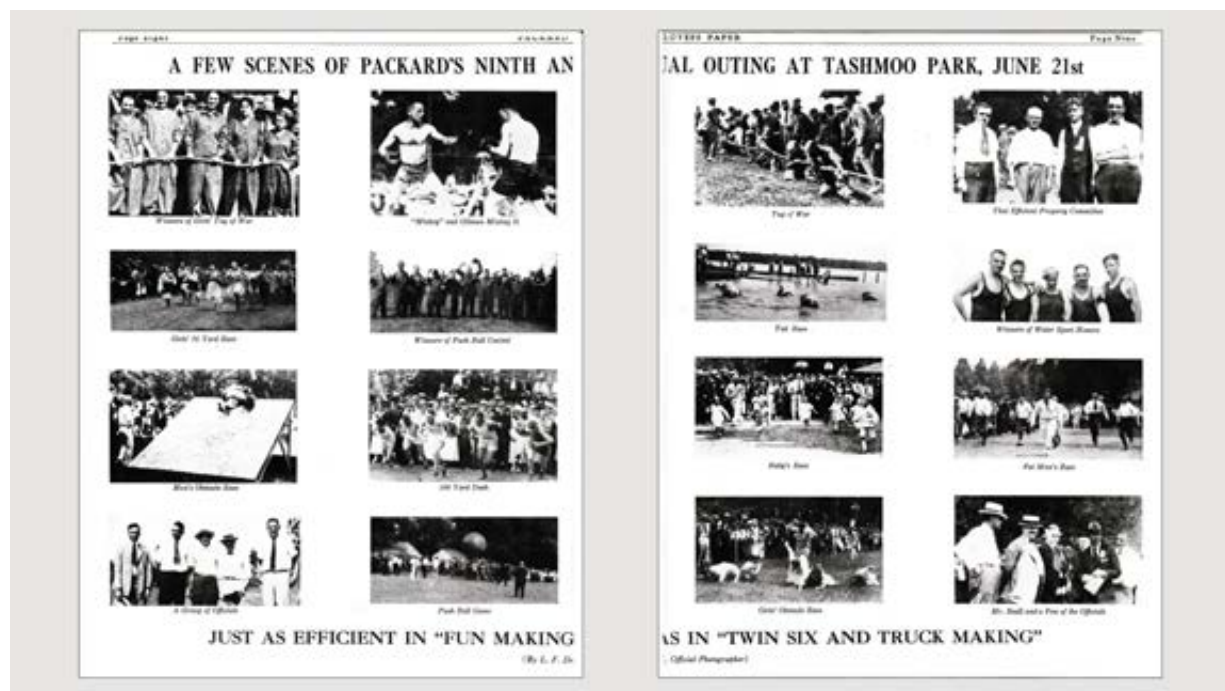
PACKARD EMPLOYEES NINTH ANNUAL OUTING, JUNE 21st

Beginning in 1910, Packard sponsored a grand and glorious annual outing for employees, distributors and associates. The day started with a 20 mile ride aboard the steamship Tashmoo up the St. Clair River to Harsen's Island. It was a day of picnics, fun and organized games.

The steamer Tashmoo was launched on December 30, 1899. She was built by the Detroit Steamship Co. in Wyandotte. The 306 foot vessel was launched on June 9, 1900 and could accomodate over 3,500 people. The Tashmoo was also assisted by the steamer Greyhound when the crowds were excessive.

Opening in 1897, Tashmoo Park was located on the southwestern short of Harsen's Island in the St. Clair River Flats. It was an entertainment venue known for its large picnics, simple rides and notable visitors, such a President Roosevelt in 1902. The park also offered a dancing pavilion, a baseball diamond and playground equipment. There was also a carousel that featured hand carved animals. Unfortunately, the park closed in 1951.

On June 21, 1919, Packard employees attended an outing which was covered in the Packard Employees Paper with a wonderful piece of line art and photographs. In the photos below, employees are shown boarding the steamer, Greyhound, and Packard employees playing at the park.



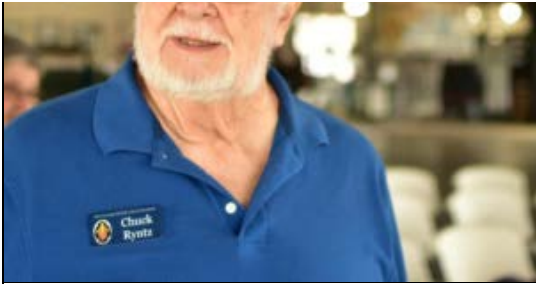
Every picture tells a story. These photos and 14,000 more are on file in the Vault at the Packard Proving Grounds.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Meet Chuck Ryntz.

Some people come to the Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site with a lifelong passion for automotive history. Others discover it later - and



in doing so, bring a fresh perspective that helps move that history forward.

For Chuck Ryntz, that appreciation came after a long career in the automotive industry itself.

Born, raised, educated, and professionally rooted in Southeast Michigan, Chuck spent decades as

as a mechanical engineer specializing in automotive safety, working across the Big Three and beyond. But it wasn't until retirement that he began to fully reflect on the legacy of the industry he had been part of - and the importance of preserving it.

That reflection led him to the Packard Proving Grounds.

What began as curiosity quickly turned into commitment. Since volunteering, Chuck has immersed himself in the history of Packard and the site - piecing together stories and helping make that information more accessible.

You may have already experienced his work without realizing it.

From the QR code plates installed across the grounds to the written content behind them, Chuck has played a key role in expanding how visitors engage with the site. His contributions to the website - including historical content and the "In Memoriam" section - have helped preserve not just buildings and milestones, but the people who shaped them.

That same dedication to storytelling carries into his involvement with the ever-growing Historical Speaker Series, where he helps develop programs and provides content that supports PPG's outreach efforts. It also extends to the PPG blog, where Chuck is the driving force and co-author behind the *Guardians of Packard* series - bringing forward the stories of the individuals who have shaped and sustained the site over time.

In fact, through his work in genealogy and research, Chuck has come to identify as something of a "necrologist" - someone who documents the lives of others. It's an extension of the same curiosity that drives his work at PPG: a desire to understand, record, and share stories with care.

And he stays busy.

Beyond PPG, Chuck volunteers with the archivist at the Romeo District Library, supports multiple local historical societies, and contributes his time to the Jack Frost Car Museum. He's also a familiar face at a weekly Euchre game in Washington Township - proof that community, for him, is just as important as preservation.



But perhaps what stands out most is the way Chuck approaches both.

There's a quiet persistence in his work - a desire to understand, organize, and share information in a way that helps others connect more deeply. Whether it's refining website content, supporting the Historic



Speaker Series, or researching the stories behind the names, his efforts consistently point back to one thing: making history more accessible and more meaningful for everyone who visits.

After the passing of his wife, Carol, in 2023, Chuck found renewed purpose through volunteering. In many ways, his work at the Packard Proving Grounds reflects that same sense of continuity - honoring the past while contributing to something that will carry forward.

When asked about his thoughts on volunteering at the PPG, Chuck admits it's not always easy to put into words.

“There’s a sense of satisfaction in knowing that you are participating in something bigger than yourself,” he says. “The Packard Proving Grounds is more than just a historic site - it’s a testament to automotive innovation and a place that continues to bring the community together in meaningful ways.”

In doing so, he’s helping ensure that the stories found here aren’t just preserved - but understood, shared and carried forward for generations to come.

Explore Volunteer Opportunities

UPCOMING EVENTS	
Sat, May 16th	Packard Farmers Market KICKOFF
Sun, May 31st	Simply Unique Market
Sat, Jun 13th	Packards & Pours
Tue, Jul 14th	Blood Drive
Sun, Jul 19th	Easy Rodders Car Show
Fri, Jul 24th	Simply Unique Night Market

HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES

As our Spring 2026 Historical Speaker Series comes to a close, we're reflecting on a season that surpassed every expectation.

To our speakers, who brought depth and perspective to each story, to our attendees, whose curiosity continues to fill the room, and to the many hands behind the scenes—thank you for making this our most successful season yet.

Our Fall 2026 and Winter 2027 lineup is already taking shape, with stories that reach even deeper into the people, places, and moments that continue to shape our understanding of the past.

Consider this your first glimpse at what's ahead—we think you'll want to be in the room for what's next.



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 Marccone*

Purchase Tickets



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 Packard Motor Car Foundation.

THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS GIFT SHOP

A tall, elegant beer glass filled with golden beer and a thick, white head of foam. The glass has the "Packard PROVING GROUNDS HISTORIC SITE" logo embossed on it. The background is a dark blue sky with white cherry blossoms.

**PACKARD
PILSNER
BEER GLASS**

Stop in, take a tour
and pick one up
today!

Gift Shop purchases directly support the Packard Motor Car Foundation.

Shop Now

SUPPORT THE **PMCF** MISSION.

Preserve the past.
Fuel the future.



Donate Today



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



Copyright (C) 2026 Packard Motor Car Foundation, Inc. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site
49965 Van Dyke Ave. Shelby Twp, MI 48317

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)