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As autumn settles in and the year begins to wind down, we're reminded of how much we have to be thankful for here at the Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site. From the dedication of our volunteers and staff to the enthusiasm of our visitors, event guests, and supporters, each of you plays a vital role in preserving this remarkable piece of automotive history.

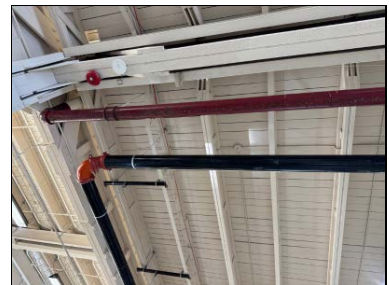
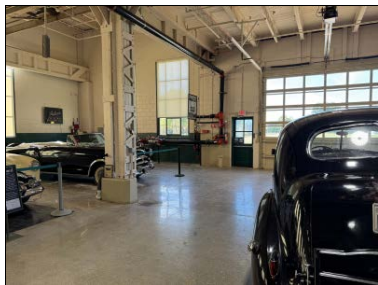
This November, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helps keep the Packard legacy alive — past, present, and future.

RESTORATION UPDATE

THE TANK TEST CENTER PROJECT



Your generosity ensures that our historic artifacts will be preserved for generations to come. Together, we're closing in on the finish line — and we invite you to be part of making history by helping us reach 100%.



Donate Today



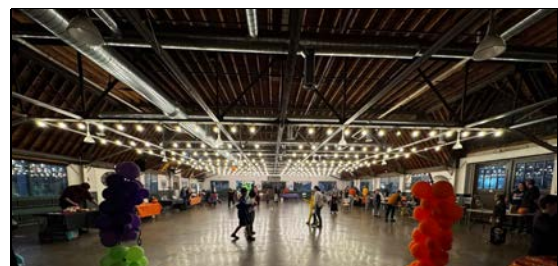


UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun, Nov 9th	HSS: Henry B. Joy & the Selfridge Connection
Sun, Nov 16th	Wedding Garage Sale
Sun, Nov 23rd	HSS: How The PPG Was Saved
Sat, Nov 29th	Model Train Show

HALLOWEEN AT THE PPG

CUBSCOUT PACK 92'S HALLOWEEN HOOPLA





Cub Scout Pack 92 held their first Halloween Hoopla on Wednesday, October 15th. Nearly doubling their pack size since last year, it was a packed house filled with fun and games for all in attendance!



INDEPENDENT BANK VOLUNTEERS “MAKE A DIFFERENCE” AT THE PPG

On Monday, October 20, a team of 13 volunteers from **Independent Bank** spent their morning at the Packard Proving Grounds as part of the bank’s *Make a Difference Day* community initiative. Working alongside Jeannine Morris, Ken Snyder, and Dante Sabatino, the group tackled a variety of projects across the site — from cleaning radiators in the Repair Garage and scrubbing the kitchen floors to sweeping, organizing tables and chairs, and collecting debris around the grounds.

Their teamwork and attention to detail left every corner they touched looking refreshed and ready for upcoming events. (Not all volunteers are pictured.)



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Say hello to Bruce Blevins.

Bruce's Packard story begins at age nine, when his Uncle Jim rolled a 1934 Packard into the family business for restoration. "I fell in love with the front end," Bruce says simply. That early spark turned into a lifetime. He bought his first Packard—a 1933—at 18, then served ten years in the Army, flying helicopters and graduating from West Point along the way. When he returned, Uncle Jim had kept that Packard safe for him, and Bruce dove back in.

Around 2000, a meeting about a place Bruce had never heard of—Packard Proving Grounds—changed everything. He showed up once and never really left.

By 2005, he'd joined the Board of Trustees and served as treasurer for 15 years. "I like the mechanical side of things," he says, almost offhand. But that modest line understates what he did: helped make the site functional. Heat and air conditioning. Electricity. Bathrooms. Weddings to build revenue. He helped turn a fragile hope into a sustainable operation.

Today, Bruce continues to volunteer—working with Building & Grounds, tackling repairs and special projects—and he still lights up talking about the place. "It's a National Historic Site," he says, "and it played a big part in American history and automotive development—here and around the world. It was a place of firsts." He loves sharing that pride with visitors and remembers asking tour groups, "How many people never heard of Packard before you came here?" The number surprised him, especially among younger guests. "That's what we're trying to do—educate people about Packard's importance."

Bruce's generosity extends beyond projects. He's built friendships—many close, some with those we've sadly lost—and he lights up talking about them. There's "Good Bruce" and "Bad Bruce" (he's "Good Bruce," of course), and a deep gratitude for everyone who wants the site "to succeed, expand, grow, stabilize, and be a

shining gem for Shelby Township.”

He also paints one of the most beautiful pictures of PPG you’ll ever hear: “If you’re having a bad day, walk to the west end and stand with your back to the timing stand. Look east. The elms are forming a canopy. You see the white wall at the far end, then the big flagpole and the American flag against the blue sky. You can’t stand there and look at that and have a bad day.”

Outside the grounds, Bruce is a self-proclaimed devotee of the 1933 Packard (“Everything before ’33 were prototypes; everything after were retros,” he jokes).

He and his wife Kay raised two wonderful kids—Ben, who’s now the fourth-generation owner of Blevins Screw in Grand Blanc, the family business, and Whitney, an ER physician who celebrated her wedding at the PPG.

“I’m a very lucky, very blessed person,” Bruce says. “I’ve done things most people haven’t—visited all 50 states and four continents so far.” His eyes are set on the remaining continents, though Australia and New Zealand currently top his favorites list, thanks to their astonishing scenery and refreshingly honest culture.

If you ask Bruce for advice about volunteering, he keeps it simple and generous: “Make your wishes and interests known from the start—and be willing to step into the unknown. You might discover a whole side of yourself you didn’t know was there.” And to those interested, he offers a heartfelt invitation: “If you live nearby and you’re not volunteering, stop by and talk to us. You could be missing out on a very rewarding part of your life.”





Get Involved - Explore Volunteer Opportunities at the PPG

FROM THE PACKARD BLOG

"THE WEDDING GARAGE SALE MOVEMENT IS BACK"

By Amanda Demo



Something big is happening in the wedding world — and it's taking root right here at the Packard Proving Grounds. The Wedding Garage Sale returns Sunday, November 16 from 1–4 p.m., bringing together past brides, engaged couples, and local shoppers for a day that proves weddings don't have to be wasteful or break the bank.

This summer's sale drew over 500 shoppers and 27 couples selling, all eager to take part in this new way of thinking about weddings. What started as a simple idea is quickly becoming a community movement: giving once-loved décor, gowns, signage, and accessories a second chance to shine. The strong turnout confirmed what we suspected — couples today are ready for something fresh, a blend of affordability, sustainability, and creativity that makes their celebration truly unique.

[Read More](#)

GEMS FROM THE VAULT

“YOUNGEST PACKARD STOCKHOLDER GETS RECOGNITION”

By P.H. Connell



Nine Month old Ms. Catherine Andrasik has received explicit and formal acknowledgement as Packard Motor Car Company's youngest stockholder. He is presented a 22nd Series Packard Convertible Victoria by Mr. Roy Abernathy, Assistant General Sales manager. Abernathy was then 44 years old with 15 years at Packard.

The car is a scale model provided by Packard. Photo location is Hartford, Connecticut. Photos date 3-7-1950. Apparently, her parents bought stock in her name.

Roy Abernathy joined Packard June 20, 1925 as the Wholesale Manager of the Packard Berk Company, Pittsburg, PA. June 22, 1943 he moved on to be Pittsburg Distributor. Jan 28, 1945 he became the Pittsburg Zone Distributor. June 1, 1946 Regional Manager. October 31, 1948 Hartford, Connecticut Exclusive Packard Dealer. On October 16, 1951 Roy Abernathy became Assistant General Sales Manager, Plant.

He joined American Motors, October 1954. Succeeded George Romney as AMC President 1962 and retired January 1967.

Born September 29, 1906. Died February 28, 1977. Age 70. Work history on file.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES

FALL 2025

HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES

Henry B. Joy and the Selfridge Connection

Much is known about the mastermind behind the Packard Motor Car Company, Henry Bourne Joy, but during his tenure as president of the company, he had become interested in aviation, especially developing aircraft engines. In 1915 he began acquiring tracts of land along Lake St. Clair in Harrison Township eventually he amassed more than 600 acres. He named the location the Joy Aviation Field, a place where the company could test and develop Liberty aircraft engines. It was this property which was leased and developed by the government in 1917, that later became Selfridge Field, an Army aviation installation which still operates today. This presentation will explore the background of the Joy Aviation Field and it's association with Selfridge.

**Sunday
November 9th
1-2pm**

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

Presented by
Steve Mrozek

Purchase Tickets @
PackardProvingGrounds.org/Nov9-HSS-PPG

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





HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES

How The Packard Proving Grounds Was Saved

Hear the story of how John MacArthur and his committee negotiated for 2 1/2 years to successfully reach an agreement to save the historic Packard Proving Grounds.

Attendees will receive the Fall issue of the Packard Club's magazine "The Packard Cormorant" which contains a lengthy article by John on how the agreement with Ford Motor Land Development Corporation was finally reached. John is featured in the cover photo behind the wheel of his former 1930 Packard Model 745 Convertible Sedan by Brewster, one of two survivors.

**Sunday
November 23rd
1-2pm**

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

Presented by
John MacArthur

Purchase Tickets @
PackardProvingGrounds.org/Nov23-PPG-HSS

49965 Van Dyke Ave., Shelby TWP, MI 48317
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SPRING 2026 - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Jan 11 - The Production Czar of the Arsenal of Democracy - Chris Causley
- Jan 25 - Parke Davis and the Polio Vaccine - Don Callihan
- Feb 8 - Ocean to Ocean in a Model T - Steve Shotwell
- Feb 22 - Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen - Petticoat Surgeon - Samantha Lawrence
- Mar 8 - C Harold Wills and the Wills Sainte Clare Story - Terry Ernest
- Mar 22 - Diego Rivera: The Detroit Industry Murals at the DIA - Wendy Evans
- Apr 12 - The Rise and Fall of the DeLorean Car Company - Chris Duval
- Apr 26 - From the Archives - The Detroit Tigers History - Melanie Parker

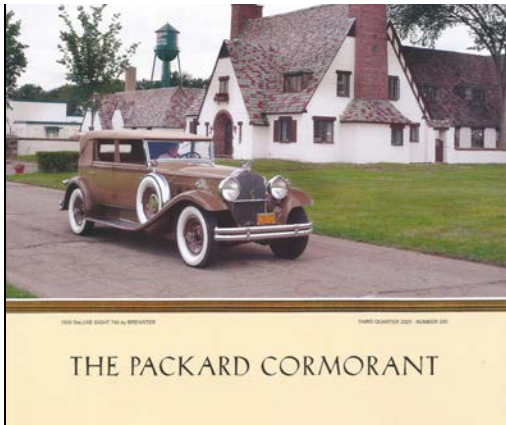
HISTORICAL SPEAKER HIGHLIGHT

"HOW THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS WAS SAVED"

Sunday, November 23rd



Join us for an event that hits close to home. John MacArthur, who led the effort to preserve the Packard Proving Grounds, will share the challenges and triumphs that secured the future of our



historic site.

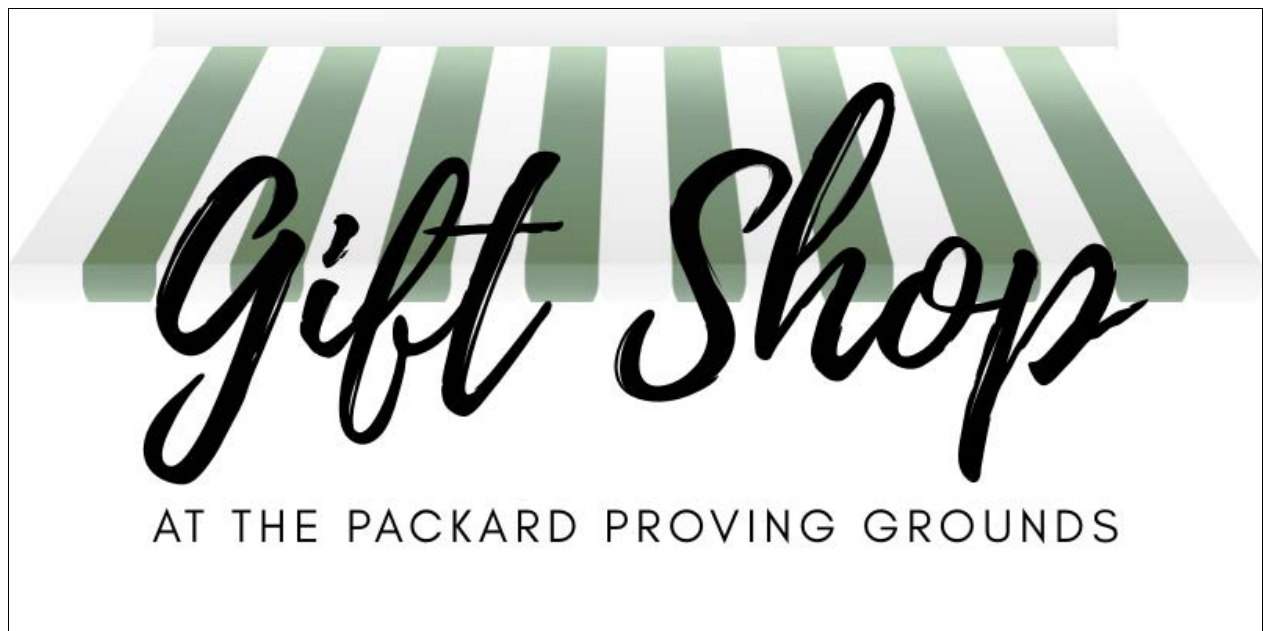
As a special bonus, attendees will receive a complimentary copy of *The Packard Cormorant* Issue #200, featuring John's 30-page article with rare, never-before-seen photos documenting the journey to save the Proving Grounds.

Complimentary copies will be available on a first-come basis at the event. Once they run out, additional issues will be available for purchase in our Gift Shop or order it directly from [The Packard Club](#).

Don't miss this opportunity to hear the story of how the Packard Proving Grounds was saved — told by the man who helped make it happen.

Admission is \$5 for not-yet-members and free for PPG Friends members.

Purchase Tickets



CARVE THE TURKEY
AND BRING A SLICE
OF **PACKARD** TO
THE TABLE.

Shop PPG
cutting boards
this holiday
season.



Gift Shop purchases directly support the Packard Motor Car Foundation.

Shop Now

Preserve the past.
Fuel the future.





SUPPORT
THE PMCF MISSION.

Donate Today

A blue vintage Packard sedan with white-walled tires is parked in front of a white house with a grey roof and black shutters. The background features a light blue pattern of concentric circles and geometric shapes.

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





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



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