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PACKARD MOTOR CAR FOUNDATION PRESENTS

THE

AUGUST 2025

PACKARD PULSE

HONORING HISTORY, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS



Protect the Packards — Double Your Impact Today!

If you missed this year's **Packard Salon** at the Proving Grounds, you missed something truly historic: the **largest gathering of high-quality Packard Twelves** in one place since they rolled off the line. You also missed exciting news about how we're safeguarding our priceless heritage for generations to come.

Big News: We are moving forward with a long-awaited and much-needed renovation of the **Tank Test Center** — home to our treasured Packards and **Miss America X**. This includes the installation of:

- A fire suppression system
- Heating, air conditioning, and ventilation
- A comprehensive fire alarm system

This \$400,000 investment is essential to protecting our most important vehicles, artifacts, and the historic building itself.

Here's where YOU come in:

Thanks to longtime Packard enthusiasts and Salon attendees **Carl and Georgia Hummel**, we've been issued a powerful challenge:

The Carl and Georgia Hummel 1933 Packard Spirit Matching Challenge

They're matching **up to \$25,000** in cash **and** in-kind gifts toward the Tank Test Center project. That means **your donation is doubled** — but only if we meet the match!

Don't leave money on the table.

This is our moment to ensure the Packard Proving Grounds—and the irreplaceable history it preserves—will thrive well into the future.

Here's how you can help:

- Make a secure online gift at [Insert Link]
- Mail a check with “TTC Match” in the memo
- Call us at **586-739-4800** to pledge, donate securities, or discuss in-kind support
- **Interested in creating your own match challenge? Let's talk!**

Let's rise to the challenge and honor the Hummels' generous spirit. Together, we can protect these Packards—not just for ourselves, but for future generations.



Carl and Georgia Hummel brought these two beautiful twelves to the 2025 Salon earlier this year.

(left) 1933 1005 Dietrich Twelve Convertible Victoria
(right) 1933 1005 Dietrich Twelve Phaeton

2025 PPG UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturdays	Shelby Farmers Market
Sun, Aug 24th	PPG Wedding Garage Sale
Sun, Sept 9th	Historic Speaker Series: Emblems that Moved Us
Fri, Sept 12th	Simply Unique Night Market
Sun, Sept 14th	Cars 'R' Stars Car Show
Sun, Oct 19th	Annual Fall Open House
Sun, Nov 2nd	Harvest Holiday Market

Volunteer Spotlight

Gary Kopp – Driven by Passion for Cars & Community



This month, we're excited to shine the spotlight on Gary Kopp — a lifelong car enthusiast, dedicated community leader, and one of the passionate volunteers helping to move the mission of the Packard Proving Grounds forward. Gary lends his time and talent in a variety of ways, including driving for events, assisting with auto maintenance, and supporting building upkeep.

Gary's connection to the automotive world runs deep. He began his career at

Ford in

1972 and spent the next 40 years immersed in the industry, working at Visteon, Magna, and taking on consulting and teaching roles that even took him to Asia. After retiring, Gary didn't slow down—he dove into what he calls his “professional volunteer” phase. He has served in local politics, as an elected Trustee on the Washington Township Library Board for six years, twice held the role of Grand Knight and District Deputy for the Knights of Columbus, and currently serves as President of his Homeowners Association. He's also done interview and video work for WBRW, and served on his church's Finance Committee.

So what led Gary to PPG? “I've been a car guy forever,” he says. Years ago, while working at Visteon, he toured the Packard Proving Grounds to evaluate the track. For Gary, PPG is a place where passion and history come together. “The cars are the stars,” he explains. “The buildings and volunteers support them.” He believes that like all volunteer organizations, PPG faces its challenges—but with the right vision, leadership, and communication, it can continue to thrive.

When he's not volunteering, Gary enjoys golfing, reading, exercising, and pickleball. He's been married for 55 years and is the proud father of four, and grandfather to four more.

Thank you, Gary, for your contributions to the PPG. We're lucky to have you on the team!

Explore Volunteer Opportunities @ the PPG

From The Packard Blog





Help Restore a WWII Landmark: The Tank Test Center

A Hidden Gem. A Living Legacy. A Treasure Worth Saving.

by Amanda Demo Sanford

Just off Van Dyke Avenue in Shelby Township sits a piece of American history that too often goes unnoticed. The Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site may be tucked away behind a modest entrance—but for those who turn in and take the time to walk its grounds, it leaves a lasting impression.

This isn't just where innovation happened—it's where history comes alive. The smell of motor oil and history. The sight of classic Packards lovingly preserved. The spirit of a time when American industry rose to meet the world's greatest challenges. Visitors often tell us: "I had no idea this was here—and now I can't stop thinking about it."

Among its historic buildings is the Tank Test Center, constructed during WWII and designed by William Kapp—the largest on site, is awaiting restoration. With your help, we can give this building the attention it deserves and ensure it continues serving as a home for history, education, and community. **[Click here to read more.](#)**

THE RESULTS ARE IN...

24 DONORS

72 LIVES
SAVED



July 15th Blood Drive at the PPG

#GiveBloodSaveLives

24 Donors. Up To 72 Lives Saved.

That's the incredible impact YOU made at our July Blood Drive. From first-time donors to Power Red heroes, we saw this community show up with heart and purpose.

We're so grateful to each of you who rolled up your sleeves to help prevent dangerous blood shortages. Your donation may have saved a life—or three.

Let's do it again. Our next blood drive is **October 13th**—mark your calendars and help us spread the word.

Gems from the Vault



Baboon Sells 1927 Packard - Circus Elephants and White Stallions Agree!

By P.H. Connell

The Hagenbeck - Wallace Circus was the second largest traveling circus in America next to the Ringling Brothers. They featured a wide variety of highly trained elephants, horses and other animals.

The circus wintered in Peru, Indiana. They started in business in 1903. During the winter months they had to exercise the animals and reinforce previous training. Mr. Benjamin Wallace is shown with the circus animals.

The left photo below shows two elephants positioned at either side of Mr. Wallace's 1927 Packard 426 Five Passenger Sedan Body Number 283. This vehicle had a six cylinder engine and a 126 inch wheelbase. The elephant's hind feet are on pedestals.

The right photo below shows twelve white horses paying homage to the new Packard. It was quite a feat to get even trained horses to all rear up at the same time.

The last photo view shows a baboon sitting in the driver's seat acting like a perfect salesman, trying to invite you for a test drive! It looks like he attended salesman's training too.

Notice the new roof treatment for 1927 and the integral visor at the forward end. The totally new bodies were of a much more modern line, being lower and more rounded.

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

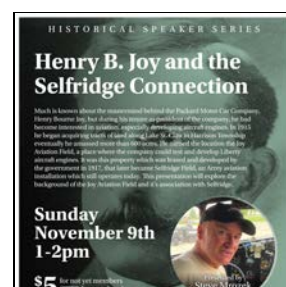
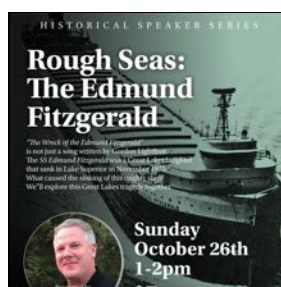


Flyers for Upcoming Events at the PPG



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

Historic Speaker Series - Fall 2025





THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS GIFT SHOP



NEW INVENTORY ALERT!



**PACKARD
TWELVE
BLUEPRINT TEE**

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Gift Shop purchases directly support the Packard Motor Car Foundation.

Shop at our online Gift Shop

GOT OLD STREAMING DEVICES?

Universal remotes, Roku, Firesticks, Chromecast - we'll put them to work!

Drop them off in the Tank Test Center's coal bin.



Help Us Repurpose Devices for the Tank Test Center

The Packard Proving Grounds is currently seeking old universal TV remotes, unused Roku, Amazon Firesticks, Chromecast streaming devices, and similar equipment. Our IT department plans to repurpose these items to support new video displays in the Tank Test Center - essentially where Packard artifacts, documents, and vehicles are stored.

If you have any of these devices lying around, please consider donating them to help enhance our visitor experience. The PPG site is open 9am-3pm seven days a week if you'd like to drop one off. Call or text us at 586-739-4800 just before you head out.

Thank you for helping us bring Packard history to life!

Preserve the past.
Fuel the future.



SUPPORT
THE PMCF MISSION.

[Click here to make a donation to the Packard Motor Car Foundation](#)



Have a question?

You can call or text us at the PPG main phone
586-739-4800



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