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Tour of homes moves to new neighborhoods

Bronislaus KUSH Worcester Diary

Preservation Worcester is switching gears this year when it comes to the organization's spring "Tour of Gracious Homes."

Since the popular program began a few years ago, the event has featured finely kept homes in the Salisbury Street area.

This year, the tour's focus will be on the Burncoat-Lincoln Street neighborhood, with five featured houses offered. Another three in the Pleasant Street-Newton Square area, across town, will be showcased.

City Clerk David Rushford, a Preservation Worcester board member, had suggested moving the tour to other neighborhoods.

"We want to get away from the idea that we're a West Side organization," said Deborah Packard, Preservation Worcester's executive director.

The tour, which will be held from noon to 5 p.m. June 8, attracts about 600 participants annually.

In addition to visiting homes, participants are invited to a cocktail party from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Worcester Country Club on Rice Street.

The club itself is historically significant.

It was designed by prominent Worcester architect Lucius Briggs and built around 1914. The club resembles an English manor and features a rubblework boulder base and half timbering in the gables.

The first Ryder Cup competition between American and European golfers was held at the club.

Reserved tickets for the house tour this year cost \$27. On the day of event, they may be purchased for \$30. Preservation Worcester members get a \$5 discount.

For information, call (508) 754-8760.