**Masonic Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is Freemasonry?**

Freemasonry, sometimes just called Masonry, is the world’s oldest and largest Fraternity. It aims to promote Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love among its members -- men from every race, religion, opinion, and background -- who are brought together as Brothers to develop and strengthen the bonds of friendship. There are more than 3 million members meeting in nearly every free country in the world. Freemasonry proposes to "make good men better" by teaching -- with metaphors taken from geometry and architecture -- about building values based on great universal truths. And of course, charity and community service is fundamental to Freemasonry and something we actively take part in.

**Is Freemasonry a charity?**

No. Masonic principles teach the value of relief (charity), and Freemasons give more than $3 million A DAY to charitable causes, along with countless man hours. More than 70% of donations support the public. Among their works are the Shriners Hospitals for Children, with 22 sites throughout North America that include world renowned burn centers and orthopedic facilities; almost 225 Learning Centers that help children with dyslexia, speech and hearing disorders; the Masonic Youth Child Identification Program (MYCHIP), and the Masonic Angel Foundation, providing modest assistance to children and adults in local communities who do not fit the criteria for usual social-services. Throughout America and world, there are numerous other worthy causes and groups that local Lodges contribute to and help in their communities.

**Is Freemasonry a secret society?**

No. It is sometimes said that Freemasonry is a "Society with secrets, not a secret society." In point of fact, however, any purported Masonic "secrets" were made public several centuries ago in London newspapers, and today can be found in the Library of Congress, on the Internet, and in many books on the subject. Benjamin Franklin once said, "The great secret of Freemasonry is that there is no secret at all." But some say the one great secret of Freemasonry... is finding out who YOU really are.

**How did Freemasonry start in Massachusetts?**

We say that Freemasonry started in the east and traveled to the west, which brings us to the first chartered lodge in the western hemisphere. It was in the Massachusetts Bay Colony that the Grand Lodge of Masons in England granted a charter to Henry Price in 1733.  A bronze plaque situated on State Street in Boston marks the location where those first American colonists met as a formal, sanctioned Masonic entity.  For more information go to [massfreemasonry.org](http://www.massfreemasonry.org/)

**How do I become a Freemason? Ask!**

Most men can become a Mason by simply asking, like George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and most every Mason from the past to the present day. Each Lodge manages the membership process for its candidates. In general, men seek out a Lodge near their home or work (the "Find a Lodge" feature above will help you find the nearest Lodge), or they ask a Mason to recommend a Lodge to them. Once you've found a Lodge you would like to join, let them know of your interest and they will provide you with a petition.

**What are the lodges that meet in Norwood (77 Day Street) and Westwood (655 High Street)?**

**Lodge Name Location Monthly Meeting Night**

Lafayette – Dover Norwood Fourth Thursday

Orient Norwood Second Monday

Union Norwood Second Tuesday

Celestial Westwood Second Wednesday

Prospect Westwood Second Monday

Rabboni Westwood Third Tuesday

West Roxbury – Dorchester Westwood First Wednesday

**How do I receive more information about Freemasonry?**

Contact us at <6thmasonicdistrict.com>