

*Town of Weymouth
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Press Release

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Historical Marker Unveiled at Weymouth's Libby Field

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Weymouth, MA – On November 11th, a new historical marker was unveiled at Libby Memorial Field, commemorating the park's namesakes Dr. J. Herbert Libby and his wife Anne J. Libby and officially rededicating the facility in their honor.

Since opening the field in April of 2018, Libby Memorial Field has become a sought-after destination for big diamond baseball on the South Shore. The park currently hosts a variety of leagues and teams, including: Weymouth High varsity and junior varsity games and practices, Weymouth Babe Ruth Baseball, Weymouth Cal Ripken Baseball, Wentworth Baseball, and more.

"Libby Field is now one of the premiere municipal baseball fields in Eastern Massachusetts," **said Mayor Robert Hedlund**. "The field is always bustling with activity, with a large number of teams, youth and adult, making use of the field and its top-notch facilities."

"The investment in Libby Field is one that has certainly benefitted the Town," added **Recreation Director Stephen Reilly**. "In addition to earning the Town rental income from the teams who utilize the fields, players and their families patronize Weymouth businesses while they're in town for games."

Libby Memorial Field is a 6.4-acre ball park located off Middle Street, opposite the Abigail Adams Middle School and Veterans' Memorial Wall. Between 2017 and 2018, the park underwent approximately \$3 million in renovations to develop the Town's first artificial-turf baseball diamond, enhance recreational opportunities for local youth and high school baseball teams, and support beautification of the Town's Civic Center Historic District.

Plans for the new park were prepared by Activitas, Inc. of Dedham, with construction completed by Green Acres Landscaping & Construction Co. of Lakeville.

Libby Memorial Field features a standard-size, artificial-turf baseball diamond with 90-foot base paths, a 60-foot pitching distance, and up to 395 feet between home plate and the outfield fence. Additional ball field amenities include team bullpens and sheltered dugouts, a digital scoreboard, an LED sports lighting system for evening games, a pair of bleachers with capacity for up to 200 spectators, and a batter's eye, or sight screen, located in center field that allows batters to see the pitched ball and alleviates sun glare.

Additional features of Libby Memorial Field include a concession stand, restrooms, a quarter-mile perimeter walking path, a handicapped-accessible entrance off Chard Street, and 460 linear feet of streetscaping along Middle Street, including sidewalk extensions, granite seating blocks, and spectator railings.

A Brief Bio. on Dr. J. Herbert Libby and Annie J. Libby

In 1895, Dr. Libby moved to East Weymouth, where he practiced medicine and later joined the Massachusetts Medical Society, serving as one of its councilors. Dr. Libby became the Town's School Physician in 1914. Apart from his time as an assistant surgeon in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during World War I, Dr. Libby served in this position for the next 31 years. Dr. Libby was one of 12 physicians at Weymouth Hospital when it opened its doors in 1922. That same year, Dr. Libby became a member of the Weymouth School Committee. He served as a School Committee member for 18 years.

Dr. Libby married his wife, Anna "Annie" Jane Price of Boston, in 1889. Mrs. Libby was elected president of the American Legion Auxiliary in 1920 and served as president of the Monday Club, a philanthropic organization of Weymouth women, from 1921 to 1923. Mrs. Libby also served on the Home Service Committee of the Red Cross and was a member of the League of Women Voters and the Weymouth Conservation Committee.

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