



THE PIPELINE

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“Hub is going to change the neighborhood and help fill some of its needs. It’s changing the vibe.”

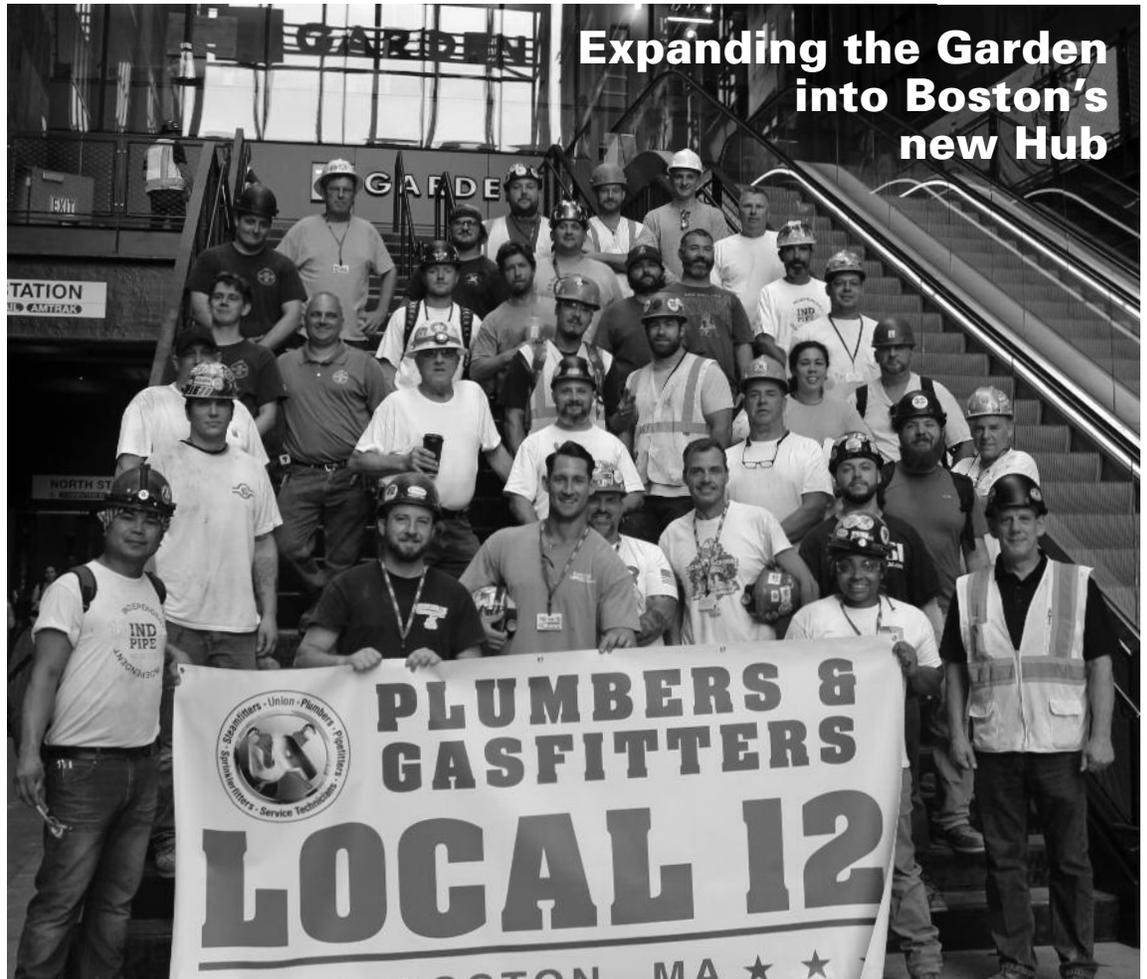
- Amy Latimer, TD Garden
Cover

“I’m developing a great team with Local 12’s help.”

- Steve Ferro, S. Ferro Plumbing and Heating
Cover

“Plumbing inspectors are the unsung heroes in the Merrimack Valley recovery.”

- Jim Vaughan, Local 12
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Expanding the Garden into Boston’s new Hub

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THERE IS A FLURRY OF ACTIVITY AT TD GARDEN, AND IT’S NOT JUST THE STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS AND BACKSTREET BOYS CONCERTS.

There are towers and buildings being erected alongside and above the sports and entertainment arena on the site of the old Boston Garden as well as an expansion of the venue itself. Collectively known as The Hub on Causeway, the almost 1.9 million-square-foot mixed-use project that Delaware North is building with Boston Properties will include two office towers, a residential tower, a hotel, and a podium that will feature a new entertainment performance space, a Star Market, a 15-screen movie theater, and a number of restaurant and retail locations. Valued at \$1.2 billion, the aptly named Hub is transforming Causeway Street into one of the city’s foremost destinations.

“Hub is going to change the neighborhood and help fill some of its needs,” Amy Latimer, TD Garden president, told the Boston Globe in a video interview. “It’s changing the vibe.” It will also change

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He returned to Local 12

In 2001, when he was 18 years old, Steve Ferro joined Local 12. The industry and the economy at large were booming. He immediately began working for GBPCA contractor E.M. Duggan as an apprentice and remained there until he got his journeyman license in 2006 and beyond. Still in his 20s, he became a foreman and was running jobs for the shop.

“Honestly, I thought I’d be with Duggan for the rest of my career,” Ferro says. Fate had other ideas, however.

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First phase of Fenway Center takes shape

IN ADDITION TO FENWAY PARK, THE CITGO SIGN, AND OTHER LANDMARKS, MOTORISTS DRIVING ALONG THE MASS PIKE NEAR KENMORE SQUARE HAVE A NEW SIGHT TO BEHOLD: THE FENWAY CENTER.

Perched alongside the interstate, it's pretty hard to miss the 15- and 9-story towers that began to go vertical in early 2019. But the buildings only represent the first phase of the proposed \$600 million multi-use complex. If the developers can secure air rights and funding, a second phase would include an additional three buildings to be constructed on a deck that would span across the turnpike.

"It's an enormous project that would transform the neighborhood," says Barry Keady, Local 12 business agent. "We are potentially looking at six to eight years of work for our members."

The two towers now under construction will include 312 apartments, including some affordable units. There will also be street-level retail shops and two below-grade garage floors with 200 parking spaces. The site used to occupy surface parking lots.

"It's an interesting location," says Barry Gehron, chief engineer for the project's phase-one general contractor, John Moriarty & Associates.

"We are directly adjacent to a train station," he says referring to the new Yawkey Commuter Rail Station. Part of the development included construction of a deck and a pedestrian walkway over the station. With the MBTA's Kenmore Square and Fenway stations just around the corner, Fenway Center is the epitome of smart growth, transit-oriented development.

"Also, you've got Boston University, the hospitals, and of course, Fenway Park on our doorstep," Gehron adds. "There's a lot going on around here."

GBPCA member J.C. Cannistraro had 31 Local 12 plumbers on site at the project earlier in the summer. According to Brian Curley, plumbing foreman for the job, the contractor expects to have around 45 mechanics at its height.

As with many construction projects in the city, Curley says there is virtually no yard for contractors to unload or store supplies. But Fenway Center may be more challenging than most job sites for deliveries. There is a constant flow of commuters at the train station, and the area has a steady stream of pedestrians in general. And then there is the Red Sox.

"Day games, especially ones due to last minute schedule



Barry Keady, Local 12 business agent, and Brian Curley, plumbing foreman for J.C. Cannistraro, at the Fenway Center job site.

changes, can be extremely challenging," says Curley as he points to the baseball schedule that is prominently tacked onto the board next to his desk. "We can't walk, never mind drive to make deliveries. And parking can be especially tough for workers here when the Sox are playing."

Of course, the project *is* called Fenway Center, so the popular park kind of comes with the territory. Curley, who says that coordinating deliveries is a big part of his job, has learned to work around the Sox schedule.

It's interesting to note not only how Cannistraro makes deliveries, but also what is being delivered to the site. The contractor recently retrofitted an old machine shop in the Seaport District and created a 157,000-square-foot fabrication shop it calls The FID. As is standard for most large construction projects, Cannistraro is fabricating many of the piping units and other systems in advance and then delivering them to the job site when they are needed. But not everything is coming from The FID.

"Prefab may not be the best solution for every job, every time," explains Curley, challenging the industries' new "norm." In some cases, due to site logistics and schedule limita-

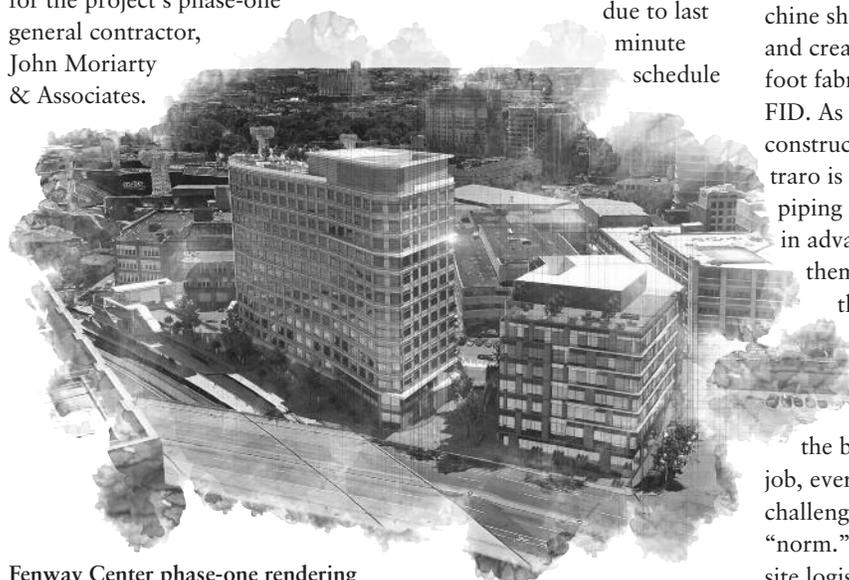
tions, he is going the conventional route, having pipe and fittings delivered by a supply house directly to the Fenway Center. His crew then does what is known as "stick building," or building the systems in-place on-site. Instead of taking the stock, building it, packaging it, scheduling it for transport, and delivering it to the site, as is the case with prefabrication, Curley says he only has to handle the material once when his crew builds systems.

The ceiling of the second floor of the podium, which connects the two towers, contains a gaggle of overhead piping—3,200 feet of it according to Curley. From there, it's a straight shot up to the apartment units. The project includes four large storm water retention tanks.

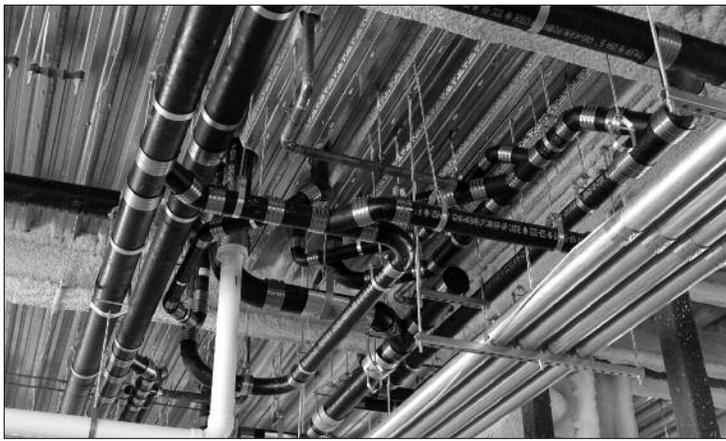
Among the buildings' amenities will be a rooftop pool with cabanas. There will also be a dog walking area on the roof with drains underneath as well as a dog washing station on the second floor of one of the towers.

"They are doing a great job," Gehron says of Cannistraro. "It's always a teamwork effort," he adds, noting that the contractor

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Fenway Center phase-one rendering



Piping assembly in the ceiling of the second floor at the Fenway Center.

Fenway Center towers over Pike

Continued from previous page

is handling fire protection, HVAC, and sheet metal for the project as well as plumbing. By combining all of the trades under one roof, it's easier for Moriarty, the general contractor, to communicate and coordinate with Cannistraro for the project. "We're happy to be partnered with them," says Gehron.

Should the second phase proceed, plans call for a 27-story tower that would include additional apartments along with office space. There would also be a seven-story residential building and a seven-story parking garage. As envisioned, the entire project would yield a total of 550 residential units, 170,000 square feet for offices, 90,000 square feet of retail space, and 1,290 parking

spaces. It would also include 30,000 square feet of parks and green spaces.

"We certainly hope the Fenway Center continues to move forward," Local 12's Keady says. "With all of the activity taking place in the city and beyond, it's an exciting time for the region's construction industry. And this is one of the premier projects."

According to the Fenway Center's phased occupancy plan, one of the towers would open at the end of January 2020. Construction would continue on the second tower, which would add to the egress and other challenges that Cannistraro and the other trades on site face. The lower half of the second tower would open in April followed by the entire building's opening in May.



The second phase of the Fenway Center would extend onto an air rights deck above the Mass Pike.

PCA hires director of public affairs



Andrew DeAngelo

In July, the Greater Boston Plumbing Contractors Association hired Andrew DeAngelo for the new director of public affairs position. His responsibilities will concentrate on external matters with a focus on legislative issues and community outreach.

Representing GBPCA contractors and the plumbing industry, DeAngelo will be dealing with regulatory initiatives and pending legislation such as paid family medical leave, wage theft, and the medical gas and drain cleaning bills. Among his duties, DeAngelo will be spending a lot of time at the State House where he will meet with lawmakers to advocate for the industry. He will also be the organization's liaison with the state's Plumbing Board.

DeAngelo will be visiting and interacting with technical colleges, high school trade schools, and other educational institutions as well as municipal and social service organizations to promote and support the value of plumbing as a career.

"Andrew knows how to engage groups and is an expert in community outreach," says Jeremy Ryan, GBPCA's executive director.

Ideally suited for the job, the paths that DeAngelo has taken seemed to have been leading him to the GBPCA position. He grew up in a union household and, thanks to his father, has always been interested in the building trades. When he was younger, DeAngelo learned to work with his hands from his dad, a recently retired electrician and

member of IBEW Local 103. He attended UMass Amherst to pursue his other interests, public service and politics.

After graduating, DeAngelo combined his interests and worked for Boston's Office of Workforce Development as a transitional employment supervisor.

"The job looped me back with the building trades," he explains, describing his role overseeing crews of court-involved youth at construction sites for Habitat for Humanity and Boston Planning & Development Agency properties. In addition to helping the participants get on-the-job training, he worked with them as a life coach.

The construction industry figured prominently in his next position with the Operation Exit program, which is run in conjunction with the Mayor's Office of Public Safety, the Boston Center for Youth and Families, the Boston Public Health Commission, the Boston Police Department, and Building Pathways. DeAngelo worked with at-risk individuals who enrolled in an intensive three-week course that introduced them to the building trades.

That led to a similar position working directly for Building Pathways. As its project coordinator, he oversaw the day-to-day needs of the training program and established relationships with the training directors, business agents, and business managers of the area's building trades, including Local 12.

"We couldn't have asked for somebody with a better background," says Ryan. "Andrew has been helping the construction industry as a whole. Now he will be focusing on plumbing contractors. Andrew will help raise the profile of the PCA, not just internally, but with the community at large."



Shop owner Steve Ferro is proudly wearing the Local 12 logo again.

PCA and Local 12 golf events

Each year golfers gather together for friendly competition, camaraderie, and to help good causes at events organized by the Greater Boston Plumbing Contractor's Association and Local 12. The PCA outing, held in June at the Marshfield Country Club, shattered all previous records by collecting \$65,000.

"In two years, we have just about doubled the amount of money generated at the event," says Jeremy Ryan, the organization's executive director. The proceeds are used to fund college scholarships that are awarded to

the children of employees at PCA member contractors and to Local 12 plumbers. With the increase in donations, the organization has been able to award more money to each of the scholarship recipients and establish an endowment fund for the program to ensure its continuity.

"We are grateful to the golfers and sponsors for their unprecedented support," Ryan adds.

Local 12 will be holding its golf tournament on September 14 in Hyde Park. Proceeds raised will be donated to several charities, including area food pantries.

Ferro back in Local 12 fold

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The boom times ended, projects became scarcer, and in 2009 he was let go. Collecting unemployment got old quickly. Not one to sit idle, Ferro took action.

"I'm a licensed plumber," he says. "When I was a kid, I was told it's a license to work." So Ferro got to work—by opening his own shop. He hired a small crew and started doing basic residential plumbing. The entrepreneur moved on to small restaurant jobs such as B. Good in Swampscott and Kelly's Roast Beef in his hometown of Revere.

Through diligent work, S. Ferro Plumbing and Heating developed a great reputation. The shop generated good word-of-mouth and positive reviews. In 2012, it was named as a preferred contractor on Angie's List. Referrals increased and opportunities for larger jobs started coming Ferro's way. He knew the business needed to grow.

"I had the knowledge. I had the drive. I had the skills," Ferro says. "But I didn't have the plumbers." That's when he started thinking about returning to Local 12, but this time as a contractor.

"It's a trend we've been seeing," says Frank Amato, recruitment specialist for Local 12. "It's very difficult for smaller contractors to find qualified plumbers today. But we have them. When shops sign on with Local 12, they have access to a huge pool of trained mechanics and can quickly staff up for virtually any project."

That's one reason why shops like S. Ferro Plumbing and Heating are joining the union. Another reason: A few years ago, the local established a new residential division and negotiated a lower rate for the specialized work. That enables contractors to work with Local 12 plumbers on residential projects such as the new construction of mid-rise, wood-frame apartment buildings.

Now, Ferro is able to handle jobs such as a 30-unit apartment building in Brighton and a 40-unit condominium complex in Jamaica Plain. Affiliating with Local 12 has also allowed him to work on 100% union jobs such as installing gas piping for boilers at Harvard University and fitting out a Chick-fil-A restaurant in downtown Boston. General contractors and developers appreciate how quickly, efficiently, and precisely Ferro is able to tackle projects because of his Local 12 connection.

While he welcomes the new work, Ferro hasn't abandoned his smaller residential customers. "We'll still fix Mrs. Smith's sink," he says. "We are very diverse. It's good for the plumbers who are working for me, because they get to do everything."

Ferro would like to become even more diverse and move into larger commercial work as well. With Local 12's support, the goal is achievable.

There are other advantages to being a signatory contractor with the union. For example, his employees are earning a decent wage and getting good benefits. Ferro used to offer his own benefits program, but found the administrative work to maintain it confusing and time consuming. Now, Local 12 maintains the benefits package.

"I'm developing a great team with Local 12's help," Ferro says. "The plumbers who work with me are happy. I'm happy. The future looks bright."

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Merrimack Valley recovery: Phase II

when possible, rather than replace them. That allowed the plumbers to proceed more quickly and get every household and business back up and running with heat and hot water by February 1, 2019.

When the initial recovery was deemed complete, a contingent of Local 12 plumbers remained on site to troubleshoot and provide service as necessary. In early April, the second phase of the recovery began, and plumbers returned to replace the fixtures that they had initially repaired.

Why replace all of the appliances if they were functioning? “The excess gas could have adversely effected the fixtures,” explains Jim Vaughan, Local 12 business agent. “They could fail down the line.” Vaughan coordinated both phases of the Local’s recovery efforts in the Merrimack Valley.

The phase II team included four Local 12-affiliated contrac-



Harry Brett (left), Local 12 business manager, and Jim Vaughan (fourth from right), Local 12 business agent, with plumbers during the first phase of the Merrimack Valley recovery.

tors: William F. Lynch Co. of Worcester, Harry Grodsky Company of Billerica, Jeffrey Peabody Plumbing & Heating of Danvers, and Glionna Plumbing & Heating Services of Saugus. According to Vaughan, Glionna had been part of the recovery’s first phase when it was a non-union shop.

“They saw Local 12 in action,” he says, referring to the massive

response of the union in the wake of the disaster. “That motivated them to join us.”

According to Mike Glionna, the shop’s owner, affiliating with Local 12 has opened up new opportunities. “Everybody knows it’s tough out there,” he says, referring to the scarcity of trained mechanics amid the region’s booming construction industry. “Now I have access to manpower for bigger and more diverse jobs.” Among the projects on which the contractor is working are three restaurants at Logan Airport.

“We are happy to have Glionna as a new signatory contractor,” Vaughan adds.

During the second phase of the Merrimack Valley recovery, the general contractor worked with the plumbers and arranged assessments of the customers requiring new appliances. The plumbing contractors then made arrangements to procure and install clothes dryers, water heaters, boilers, and other fixtures. Many of the replacements involved older gas boilers. Unlike the initial recovery phase during the winter, the plumbers could temporarily leave customers without heat in the late spring and sum-

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WHEN A NATURAL GAS DISASTER CAUSED EXPLOSIONS and fires throughout Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover in September 2018, GBPCA contractors and Local 12 plumbers were among the first to mobilize for the recovery efforts. Some 1,200 mechanics fanned out across the communities and helped restore service to about 8,500 Columbia Gas customers.

At first, the recovery teams replaced all boilers, hot water heaters, and other appliances with new fixtures. With winter fast approaching, however, a decision was made to temporarily repair appliances and fixtures,

Recovery Efforts in Merrimack Valley BY THE NUMBERS

“Now that we can look back,” says Jim Vaughan, the Local 12 business agent who coordinated the union’s recovery efforts after the natural gas disaster that befell Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover, “the numbers are wild.” Let’s take a look at some stats that emerged from the response to the emergency.

1,200 Plumbers that worked on the recovery program	18,000 Appliances replaced (another 2,000 old, inoperable appliances were discarded)	25,000 Carbon dioxide detectors installed
5,100 Gas service lines replaced	8,500 Gas meters replaced	14,000 Electric space heaters and hot plates distributed
92 Plumbing inspectors participated in the recovery program	44.5 Miles of gas main pipe replaced	5,000 Motel rooms used for temporary housing
25,000 Plumbing permits issued	13 Miles of gas main pipe recertified	500 Trailers used for temporary housing
132 Apartments used for temporary housing	11,500 Site inspections performed	1 Cruise ship used for temporary housing

Boston Garden anchors The Hub on Causeway

Continued from page 1

what Latimer refers to as the “street-to-seat” experience for fans coming to the arena.

“You could live in an apartment here, and almost never have to leave,” says Carl Wall, foreman for American Plumbing and Heating. Between the grocery store, the shops, the offices where residents could work, the eateries, and all of the activities, tenants wouldn’t even need to go outside, he adds. Of course, if they did want to leave, the MBTA’s subway and commuter rail stations would just be an elevator ride away.

American has been handling the plumbing for the first and

second phases of the Hub project, which included the first office tower, the 440-unit residential tower known as Hub50House, and the podium that connects everything together. Wall is leading a crew of 30 Local 12 plumbers that is working on the third and final phase of the project, which includes a 31-story office tower totaling 525,000 square feet. Verizon will be leasing 440,000 square feet of the space. The building began going vertical in February, and plans call for it to be completed in 2021. American has two additional crews inside the Garden. Wall estimates that there are approximately 100 plumbers from the company on site.

According to Tim Fandel, business agent for Local 12, there are about another 30 plumbers representing other shops that have been working on other aspects of the Causeway Street project. Throughout the four-year construction span of the Hub development, many GBPCA contractors have been involved including: JC Cannistraro, which worked on the boutique, 272-room citizenM hotel; A. H. Burns, the plumbing contractor for the Star Market grocery store; Valante Mechanical, which worked on the tenant fitout for Rapid7, the cybersecurity firm which moved its headquarters to one of the office towers; Douglas R. Howard, which did some of the remodeling work inside TD Garden; and E.H. Marchant, which is handling the plumbing for Big Night Live, the entertainment and nightlife space being operated by Big Night Entertainment and Live Nation.

Work on the 35,000-square-foot concert hall began in April and is scheduled to be turned over in October. “This project has a very aggressive schedule,” Fandel says. “These guys hit the ground running.” Big Night is advertising shows planned for early November at the venue.

The multi-level club will include five bars, two kitchens supporting two restaurants and private dining areas, and a total of 44 toilets among Big Night’s bathrooms. Local 12 plumbers installed an array of eight Navien tankless water heaters at the site. The units generate a tremendous amount of hot water virtually in an instant, according to Matt Wade, foreman for E.H. Marchant. The heaters, which are piped in tandem, function as one modular system.

“If there is a problem with one unit, we can trade it out without impacting the whole system,” Wade explains. “The Naviens work on demand. If there is light use, only one unit might kick on.



Local 12 plumber Charles Knight and foreman Matt Wade in front of the Navien tankless water heaters that the E.H. Marchant crew installed at Big Night Live, a new entertainment venue at The Hub on Causeway.

As demand increases, others will turn on.”

Big Night will accommodate as many as 2,000 patrons, including 1,500 in its main showroom. There will also be VIP rooms, along with bathrooms and prep kitchens on the 2.5 level above the performance space. The mezzanine level is supported and suspended from a structure above, not down to the floor.

“That makes plumbing a challenge,” acknowledges David Story, superintendent for Trinity Building and Construction, the general contractor for the Big Night Live project. There was a very tight space for using building information modeling (BIM) to coordinate the time-consuming, critical work performed by the plumbers as well as the sprinkler and HVAC contractors.

Another challenge that the project posed was the sound acoustic work done on the high ceilings to mitigate the music and noise emanating from the concert hall. Kinetic hangers were used to frame the ceiling with four layers of drywall, which made it difficult to rough in the mechanical

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The Hub’s office and residential towers will rise above and alongside the TD Garden.

The Hub on Causeway

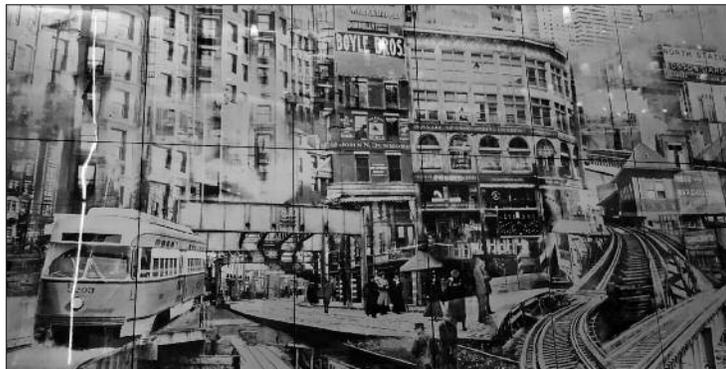
Continued from previous page and plumbing systems.

“Having a subcontractor like E.H. Marchant is great,” Story says about the GBPCA shop. “They’ve done work like this before. I know we can count on them.”

In addition to the event space, Big Night will include two restaurants operated by celebrity chef Guy Fieri. One will be Tequila Cocina, a 200-seat Mexican eatery.

As with many Boston construction sites, the logistics of arranging deliveries and moving materials has proven to be difficult for the plumbing contractors at the Hub. In addition to having no staging area, the crews have had to contend with all of the activity at the TD Garden, which has remained open throughout the project. Commuters using the North Station subway and commuter rail trains compound the congestion.

“In 35 years, this is the tightest job I’ve worked on,” says American Plumbing’s Wall. All deliveries need to be scheduled in advance and carefully orchestrated. Unplanned events can throw a curve ball—or a puck—at the process. When the Bruins were in the playoffs, for example, the city closed down some of the streets around the site, and the project’s loading docks were inaccessible. “And we didn’t even win the Stanley Cup,” notes Wall with a laugh.



A mural at The Hub shows what the neighborhood looked like years ago, including the elevated MBTA lines along Causeway Street

Prefabrication has been playing a big role in the job, the American Plumbing foreman notes, adding that nearly everything for the job is built at the contractor’s shop. “While the steel is going up, we’re already prefabbing all of our gang bathrooms.”

“The Hub is a four-year project,” says Fandel. “Without prefab and other efficiencies, it would be a six-year project.”

At 60,000 square feet, the new Star Market is Boston’s largest grocery store. Built above a garage, the entire plumbing system is embedded in the market’s ceiling. When coordinating installation, the A. H. Burns crew had to consider a second plumbing system in the ceiling, which services the new food court located directly above the Star market in the Garden.

One of the American Plumbing crews working on the TD Garden expansion is also on a tight schedule according to its foreman, Jack Whalen. The team of 22 plumbers began working in May and is scheduled to wrap in September. In order to handle the workload, Whalen says the crew is working seven days a week with extended shifts on weekdays. The expansion will add several women’s bathrooms to the arena as well as new bars and food concessions.

“Getting access to the floors, especially on days when concerts or other events are scheduled, is hard,” Whalen says. “But we will get it all done. We always do.”



The Omni Hotel will bring over 1,000 hotel rooms to the Seaport.

Building one of Boston’s largest, most upscale hotels

THE SWIFTLY EVOLVING SEAPORT DISTRICT WILL BECOME EVEN MORE BUSTLING WHEN THE OMNI BOSTON HOTEL AT THE SEAPORT OPENS IN 2021.

Now under construction, it will bring an additional 1,055 guest rooms to the neighborhood. The 21-story, 218-foot-tall project will be among the city’s five largest hotels. The Omni Seaport is budgeted at \$550 million.

GBPCA contractor American Plumbing and Heating was selected early in the process for the design-assist project and has been working with general contractor John Moriarty & Associates and Cosentini Associates, the plumbing engineer. Design and preliminary work began in the fourth quarter of 2018, and American’s crew began underground installation in early 2019. During the summer, aboveground work began on the site.

Boasting 100,000 square feet of flexible meeting and event space across four levels, the Omni Seaport will feature the neighborhood’s largest ballroom. It will also offer 35,000 square feet of restaurant space, including the upscale French Brasserie. To support all of the dining and entertainment needs, the project

will include 13 commercial kitchens.

“That’s quite unique for a hotel,” says Jim Bent, senior project executive for American. “Or any building for that matter.”

Noting that the building occupies virtually the entire footprint and that the site is “tighter than tight,” Bent adds that getting materials delivered is a logistical challenge. He says American uses a “just-in-time” approach to minimize warehousing and avoid tying up capital. Materials are only ordered when they can be run through the company’s large prefabrication shop and the finished systems and assemblies can be delivered to the job site (typically during off hours) to be installed.

“We need to make sure we have everything on the truck that we need for the floor on which we are working each day,” says Bent. In addition to the employees working on the project in the prefab shop, he estimates that there will be 30 Local 12 mechanics on site at the height of construction.

The Omni will include two 21-story towers with an 11-story tower in the middle that will fea-

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Legislative update: Medical gas and drain cleaning bills

There are two pieces of legislation winding their ways through the State House that are of interest to the industry.

One would establish licensing standards for medical gas piping systems, while the other would do the same for drain cleaners. Both of the bills were introduced early in 2019, both have been referred to the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, and both have had public hearings conducted.

While licensed plumbers have traditionally handled medical gas installations in the state, there are no state regulations that govern the practice. By establishing standards and bringing medical gas piping systems under the control of the Massachusetts Board of Examiners of Plumbers and Gasfitters, the pending bill would codify the work and help ensure patient safety. There have been some high profile cases in which medical gas cross connections have caused severe injuries and death.

Local 12 apprentices learn the complicated processes of brazing and medical gas systems at the union's training center. "It's important for medical gas to be part of the state's plumbing code so it

can be properly regulated and inspected," says Rick Carter, the training center's director.

Likewise, virtually anybody in the state could purchase a truck and offer services as a drain cleaning company. With no state agency providing oversight, this can lead to shoddy work or worse. In 2016, two drain cleaning company employees were killed when a pipe burst in a trench at a construction site.

According to Harry Brett, Local 12's business manager, drain cleaners sometimes perform unlicensed plumbing work while making service calls. The new legislation would limit drain cleaners to working with pipes connected to fixtures such as sinks and toilets, and prohibit them from installing or cutting any pipes. It would also require them to obtain board certification and complete at least 100 hours of drain cleaning work under a qualified supervisor such as a licensed plumber.

Brett says that the two bills are common sense issues. "When they put the mask on me before I go under for surgery, I would sure want to know that a trained, certified plumber properly installed the medical gas system."

The heat is on in Merrimack Valley

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mer without causing much discomfort. Hot water, however, remained a priority throughout the process.

The second phase ended in late July. With the recovery program over, Vaughan says that around 18,000 appliances were replaced in total. "Now that we can look back, the numbers are wild," he notes.

There is another wild statistic to consider, according to the business agent: There were 92 plumbing inspectors on site during the recovery process.

"They are the unsung heroes in this," says Vaughan. Considering the daunting task they faced, the chaos that they endured, and the urgent need that the emergency required, he adds, "I don't think the inspectors got the credit they deserved."

The crisis may be over, but that doesn't mean the plumbers will completely disappear from Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover.

"We will still be on call," Vaughan says. "We need to make sure everything works, especially during a cold snap."



Omni hotel going up in Seaport

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ture four "Cabana" levels. A three-story ground-floor podium will anchor the towers. Among the hotel's amenities will be a rooftop pool and a spa.

The significance of the project is not lost on the plumbers. "We know that the Omni will take its place as one of Boston's preeminent hotels," says Tony Megnia, American's foreman for the job. "It's an honor for us to be an intricate part of the construction of this new landmark in the Seaport District."

According to Bent, the chic hotel will offer high-end finishes in the rooms and throughout the hotel, particularly in its 52 luxury suites. There will be copper faucets and trim in the showers,

for example. One of the towers calls for brushed bronze finishes on the fixtures.

"We will be installing elegant soaking tubs and black lavatories," notes Bent. "Omni is a respected brand with high standards."

Located adjacent to the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, hotel guests will be able to directly access the facility via a tunnel below Summer Street. The walkway will also connect to an MBTA Silver Line station.



Foreman Tony Megnia at the Omni Seaport site.

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