

Part of the home team

—Cannistraro helps build Pats' new stadium

When John Cannistraro took his savings and opened his plumbing business back in the 1960's, no one imagined that one day there would be football stadiums with luxury fireplaces. And when J. C. Cannistraro, Inc. of Watertown began working on the new Foxboro stadium, nobody was giving the Pats much of a chance at gridiron glory.

But when CMGI Field opens later this year, 68,000 fans will be welcomed into the nation's finest state-of-the art sports complex—fireplaces and all—and the home of the reigning Super Bowl champion New England Patriots. My, how things have changed.

The \$325 million facility will sit on more than 17 acres of land, and will be a far cry from the 1971 stadium it is replacing. Much of the luxury fans will find in Foxboro will be due to the skilled work of the Cannistraro family, and its large staff of plumbers and sprinkler fitters.

Cannistraro, a member of the PHCC of Greater Boston, has grown into one of America's largest family-owned mechanical contracting businesses. After decades of handling major jobs like the new International Terminal at Logan Airport, and piping the recently-completed Millennium Condominium tower in downtown Boston, the new Foxboro Stadium will rank as Cannistraro's most dramatic plumbing job ever.

As they say in football, lets look at the stats:

- 29.5 miles of plumbing piping
- 2,300 plumbing fixtures
- 1,700 carriers

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THE RIGHT DECISION Instead of living paycheck to paycheck and worrying about medical bills, recent Local #12 member Antonios Pitarys now looks forward to a worry-free retirement.

Why become a union member?

—New members speak out

What is it really like to be a Local #12 member? Misconceptions abound. But those who actually belong to the union can help dispel myths and set the record straight. Two new Local #12 members give the straight scoop and talk about the impact that the union has made in their lives.

ANTONIOS D. PITARYS

I'm married with two kids. I became a Local 12 member last July. Before I came in, I made around \$18 an hour and paid 50% of my health insurance premium working for a non-union contractor in N.H. Now the union fully covers my health insurance. As for a retirement plan, this contractor had no pension, and I couldn't afford the extra withdrawals for the 401(k). Now I have a pension and annuity that are 100% employer-paid and will assure me a worry-free retirement.

"Some of the things I heard about the union before I joined were: 'You'll sit on the bench,' 'You'll get laid off all the time,' 'You're just a number' and 'They'll

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CMGI Field will rank as Cannistraro's most dramatic plumbing job ever

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WIN!

**Patriots Tickets
to the new
CMGI Field**
See details inside



THE BEER GOES IN... The concourse-level bathroom at the Patriots' new stadium includes a 160 foot-long "wet wall."



TAKING SHAPE The new CMGI Field as it was being built

Duggan has Fleeting memories

Just as plumbers are playing an important role in bringing CMGI Field to life, every major stadium and arena in the region—and their fans—owe a debt of gratitude to the craftsmen that helped construct them.

For example, dozens of plumbers from the William McKenna Company were part of the team that renovated Fenway Park in 1934. Whatever form the park takes over the next few years, plumbers will again step up to the plate for the Red Sox. More recently, Commonwealth Plumbing Corp. of Rockland handled Lowell's Tsongas Arena.

In the mid-90s, E.M Duggan, Inc. of Canton helped build the Fleet Center. According to Duggan Project Manager, George Olson, the arena's unique, sloped roof required a unique drainage system. "There's one-and-a-half acres of roof," he says. "We installed 24-inch diameter drain pipes leading from six-foot wide gutter drains at the roof. It was quite a project."

The Duggan crew also had to contend with the unique placement of the project. Sitting nine inches away from the existing Boston Garden, one foot away

from 151 Causeway Street and three feet away from the Leverett Circle onramp, the site posed some interesting logistical challenges. The building was essentially constructed from the inside out. "Don't forget the arena sits on top of the North Station Platform railroad tracks and a five-story parking garage also," adds the project's General Superintendent, Jim Jouve. "We were hemmed in on all sides."

To test the dozens of food stations and bathroom facilities, Olson remembers that the Fleet Center brought a couple of hundred employees in towards the end of the project. "At the sound of a horn, they simultaneously flushed all of the toilets and turned on all of the faucets—to simulate conditions between periods," he says. "Everything worked fine."

Today, when people from Duggan visit the Fleet Center, they take notice when patrons are a bit rough with the fixtures they installed. "But everything still seems great," says Duggan President Paul Harrington. "The Bruins and Celtics look OK these days. I may spend less time admiring our work and more time watching the action."

Contractor pipes Pats' place

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- 1,200 floor drains
- 60 full-service commercial kitchens
- 10,000 sprinkler heads
- 80 million BTU's for the natural gas boilers
- Three 2,500-gallon indirect hot water heaters

And the statistics only begin to describe the variety of piping systems that are part of Foxboro's grand design.

GREYWATER & GREASE TRAPS

Surrounding the new stadium will be a 14-inch greywater main, which runs from the stadium's own on-site wastewater treatment plant. The system is a big hit with environmentalists—and with the cost-conscious owners, who know that over time they will reap big savings on water and sewer bills. Cannistraro plumbers are running the greywater to hundreds of water closets and urinals—including "wet walls" that are 160 feet long.

With thousands of fixtures to install, how did the Cannistraros handle the logistics? "One thing we focus on is prefab," says company President John Cannistraro, Jr., who is one of six siblings now working in the business. "We have a top-notch bunch of plumbers in our Watertown shop. As soon as a concrete pour was done, we could move in the pre-fabbed batteries and begin the tie-ins."

Adds John Sr., "We were able to put together close to 100 percent of the prefabricated work at our site and bring it here. We feel that's put us ahead of schedule, and we'll maintain that."

Even with a skilled pre-fab operation, there were big challenges. On a visit to the site you can look up over 60 feet to a deck and see drainage piping for a restaurant. Try piping a 4-foot by 3-foot seismically protected grease trap 60 feet up, and you

know Cannistraro relied on some very skilled mechanics.

A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME

Those who have sat on Foxboro stadium's cold metal bench seats will be pleased to know that there will not be a single bench seat at the new stadium. All ticket holders will receive chairback seats. When you visit one of the 350 concession stands on any of the three 70-foot wide concourses, don't worry about missing any of the on-field action, since there will be over 1,000 television sets scattered throughout the stadium.

For really big spenders, the amenities will be even more impressive. Special "Club" members can watch the game—or the fireplace—from the glass-walled lounge. These Club members will also have the widest seats in the NFL, and a special access roadway so they won't have to spend hours in the "Foxboro Jam." Club seats can be purchased for a mere \$3,750 and \$6,000 per season. For that price, the Pats will even guarantee you the right to purchase Super Bowl tickets.

Forty years ago, when he was raising a young family and starting a business, John Cannistraro, Sr. never would have predicted that his signature job could turn out to be the first great stadium of the 21st century. He achieved his goals by employing a can-do attitude reflected in the work of his hundreds of employees.

"In business, I've tried to follow a triangle of success. You have a moral obligation to keep your client out of trouble; you have to fulfill your contractual obligation, including paying your bills on time. And you have to honor and respect your employees."

If the Patriots can follow as fine a game plan, they just may make it two in a row.

WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome the following signatory contractors

P.J. Dionne Company, Inc.
Performance Piping, Inc.
Venturelli Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

Woburn
Needham
Plymouth

New members: In their own voice

Continued from p. 1

swear you in and dump you on the bench.' I'm happy to report that none of it is true. In fact, I've had steady work, at least 50 hours a week, and I was welcomed by the membership. They congratulated me for making the right move and coming into the Local. Some of the veterans, especially Richard Doucette at the Mystic Power Station, took me under their wings, and I've made quite a few friends.

"Working non-union can't compare to working union. I no longer have to live paycheck to paycheck and I don't have to worry about medical bills—with a wife and two kids, that's critical. For instance, my wife was pregnant with our second child when I came in, and I had been sweating over how I would pay the expenses. After I joined, Local 12's Health & Welfare plan took care of everything.

"To anyone who gets the chance to join Local 12, I say go for it. It will be one of the best decisions you will ever make. I know it was the right decision for me."

EDDIE SULLIVAN

I'm 31 years old, single and I've been a Local 12 member since June 2001. I had been working for a non-union contractor who had pretty terrible benefits. For instance, I got only five holidays, no sick days and had to work for a year to get a week's vacation. One thing you always hear on the non-union side is that you don't get holidays, sick time or vacations in the union, but when it's this measly, who cares? Especially when I'm making \$5 more in the envelope and getting Local 12's great benefits. Even at the \$28 I was making on the non-union side, by the time they got through with all the deductions, my envelope was half empty.



KID NO MORE "The retirement benefits were what finally got me to call. I was starting to realize that I wasn't a kid anymore," says Eddie Sullivan.

"I was paying about \$23 a week for single health coverage (compared to zero now) and that didn't even include prescription coverage. Finally, there was no pension and, despite being there eighteen months, I still hadn't qualified for their 401(k). I've only been in Local 12 for less than a year, and I'm already 100% vested in an annuity with over \$3,000 in it. In a few short years I'll also be vested in the pension plan.

"The retirement benefits were what finally got me to call. I was starting to realize that I wasn't a kid anymore. I also want to buy a house, and I found that the AFL-CIO has a special program that allows union members to purchase houses at lower mortgage rates.

"I've been impressed with how great I've been treated since I joined Local 12. I've been working an average of 60 hours a week. In fact, all five people that I came in with are also still working steady. I've also been impressed with how professionally the Local is run. I can't say enough about the training as well, especially the 10-hour OSHA and the 32-hour Medical Gas classes.

"Lately I've been working on the Central Artery, which is the largest construction project in the country. It's something that I would never have been able to do working non-union."

CONTRACTOR PROFILE

DJ Plumbing and Heating, Inc.

DJ Plumbing has expanded considerably the last few years and soft-spoken company President David Johanson is quick to give credit where it is due: his hand-picked crew. According to Johanson, successful plumbing contractors need the right people in key positions and he considers himself fortunate to have a solid group of plumbers on whom he can rely. In fact, one of the main reasons Johanson recently became a signatory contractor with Local #12 was to ensure that his valued employees would have the benefits and security they deserve. "I didn't want to look at my guys one day when they're 65 and worry that they can't afford to retire to Florida," he says. "I know they're getting a good package with the union."

Johanson, a second-generation plumber, began as a union apprentice in 1983 and opened his Danvers company in 1992. His father, Bob, ran a shop from the mid-1970s until 1994 and now works alongside David at DJ Plumbing. "It's great having my dad here," Johanson says. "He has so many contacts in the industry and his experience is invaluable."

DJ Plumbing focuses on plumbing and gasfitting and leaves specialties like HVAC and sprinklerfitting to other contractors. The shop does a lot of work on housing and school

jobs, including recent projects such as: Newton South High School, Pierce Elementary School in Arlington, Milton Fuller Senior Housing in Milton and Mildred Avenue Middle School in Mattapan.

In late 2000, DJ began working on Cambridge Park, a 320-unit apartment building. Johanson notes that the project was a signature job for his emerging company and that it led to his alliance with the union. "Being a signatory contractor is win-win," he says. "I get access to a pool of more highly skilled professional workers than I would on the open market. Plus I get the support of the Local's business agents. And my employees get a better standard of living." Johanson adds that the union is very professional and is in sync with the business needs of today's contractors.

The DJ Plumbing president acknowledges his inner circle of employees who can do everything from swing a wrench to manage a two-million-dollar project: Scott Henry, Tom Lally, Peter Caruso, John Rice and Freddie Coburn. The shop has about 40 guys working in the field now and Johanson says that he would like to grow more, but quickly adds that he would never try to force growth. "When the time is right and when we have the right people in place, then we can grow."

WIN PATRIOTS TICKETS!

Pipelines readers! One lucky winner will be chosen via a random drawing to receive two Patriots tickets for a game during the inaugural season at CMGI Field. Fill out the info below, clip and mail to: **LMCT Patriots Drawing, U.A. Boston Local 12, 1240 Mass. Ave., Boston, MA 02125.** Entries must be received by June 14, 2002. Drawing held June 24, 2002. One entry per name. No photocopies please.

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Training now required for plumbing inspectors

Effective January, 2002, all plumbing inspectors in the Commonwealth must receive training annually. To maintain their licenses, inspectors now need to complete 12 hours of instruction. In conjunction with the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), Local #12 will offer an eight-hour course at its training center starting this June. Inspectors will supplement the course with four hours of training at regional plumbing inspector association meetings.

"This is great news for our industry and for the people of Massachusetts," says Kevin Cotter, Local #12 business manager. "We've been lobbying to get this bill passed for the past 20 years."

Two years ago, the Board of State Examiners of Plumbers & Gas Fitters convened a sub-committee to begin working on the mandate. Chaired by George Murphy, the Board's education chairman and former plumbing inspector for Cambridge, the committee brought together inspectors, engineers, educators, investigators, union reps and other industry professionals. The group determined that a success-

ful training program hinged on uniform teaching and sought the expertise and participation of IAPMO.

"Training is essential," says Joe Conley, United Association Local #12 Training Director. "Otherwise, we have no vehicle to promote professionalism among inspectors, to encourage the consistent application of code provisions across jurisdictions and to insure that plumbing inspectors remain up-to-date with industry developments."

Register to cast your vote

With the governor's race heating up and important state elections slated for this year, residents need to register in order to vote and make their voices heard.

To register in person, visit your city or town hall. You can also



The Attorney General acknowledged Local #12's wage-monitoring efforts. (L to R) Kevin Cotter and Paul Coutinho, Local #12, Job Banks, AG's office and William Turner, United Association International Representative.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Paul Kennedy, President of P.J. Kennedy & Sons of Dorchester, has been named to the State Board of Plumbers and Gasfitters. He takes over the seat formerly held by Lou Stifano, who retired as Chariman of the Plumbing Board.

In other news at the State Plumbing Board, Lou Visco, long-time Executive Secretary, Sal Sansone, Investigator and Eileen Riley, Assistant are all retiring. Plumbing Board Chairman Bill Callahan has been working very hard to ensure funding for replacement personnel.

The new 900-room Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood, FL, funded through the National United Association pension plan, is the nation's largest convention facility attached to a hotel, according to Marty Maddaloni, UA General President.

Congratulations to Tom Theroux, new Executive Director of the PHCC of MA. Best wishes to Gordon MacEwan, who left the Executive Director position and is now the Regional Representative of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO).

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register at any of the Registry of Motor Vehicle branches. You may obtain a registration form by requesting one online at www.state.ma.us/sec/ele or by calling 1-800-462-VOTE. You cannot actually register online but you can mail completed forms to your city or town hall to complete the registration process.

Pay attention to deadlines. In order to vote, you must register at least 20 days before all primaries and general elections.