

# Boston Forging & Welding owner at home on the job

By DAN MURPHY

Chip Giovanni, the third-generation owner of Boston Forging & Welding, has early childhood memories of accompanying his father to work, and even then, he said he felt right at home there.

"It never felt like work or a chore," said Chip, who as the eldest of three siblings always diverged from his younger brother and younger sister in that unlike them, he always wanted to join the family business.

His paternal grandfather, Joseph Giovanni, started Boston Forging & Welding, around 70 years ago, setting up its operations on the Fish Pier in South Boston. For more 40 years, the business served exclusively the fishing fleet. But the company relocated to East Boston in 1998, amid new regulations on the fishing industry, which meant less work for them.

Chip's father, Ronald Giovanni, went to Valley Forge Military Academy before graduating from Northeastern University around 1970. He then went to work full time at Boston Forging & Welding before assuming the reins of the company when his father retired circa 1980.

Throughout high school and college, Chip worked for the business during summer and school vacations. He started working there full-time in 1989 upon earning a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y.

Subsequently, Chip completed his AutoCAD training at Wentworth Institute of Technology. He has also earned a construction supervisor license, and is a licensed fire escape installer/inspector per the City of Boston.

When his father died in 2000, Chip assumed the company's reins. Sales have since tripled, making it a profitable business again after previously being in the red for a number of years.

"Everyone, family members, tell me their proud of me, and that my father would be proud of me," said Chip.

Boston Forging and Welding Corp. today has the experience and credentials to respond to a wide range of commercial, marine or residential concerns, from fabrication to repair to fire escape inspections, and the company is fully insured/bonded.

Past customers have included U.S. Coast Guard-approved



Chip Giovanni, the third-generation owner of Boston Forging & Welding.

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jobs, Mass Turnpike-approved jobs, City of Boston-approved jobs, and Boston Redevelopment Authority jobs, and for Logan International Airport, and the company has also done work for the World Trade Center, Prudential Center, Au Bon Pain, and various property management companies.

The vast majority of the company's residential work is

in Boston and Cambridge, with the Back Bay and South End accounting for the bulk of that, Chip said.

And of the approximately 20 welding companies now operating in the City of Boston, Boston Forging & Welding has distinguished itself with a stellar track record over the years, including not having a single customer complaint against them.

Chip points to this as perhaps the truest testament to Boston Forging & Welding's unwavering reputation for quality work.

Boston Forging & Welding is located at 336 Border St. in East Boston. For more information, call Chip Giovanni at 617-567-2300 or email him at [chippaggio@comcast.net](mailto:chippaggio@comcast.net), or visit the company's website at [bostonforgingandwelding.com](http://bostonforgingandwelding.com).

## White Stadium

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mental nonprofit group, is suing to stop the project.

This week, the group criticized recently publicized emails that they said showed there were behind the scenes negotiations with Boston Unity Soccer Partners to bring a soccer team to the stadium before an RFP for the renovation of the stadium was issued.

"The details reported today regarding the secretive and rigged RFP process between Mayor Wu's office and Boston Unity Partners is extremely concerning, and demonstrates misdirected energy and the wrong priorities, with BPS kids left behind, a community feeling ignored, and Boston taxpayers holding the bag," said Kraft.

On Tuesday, Wu stated that there was a full RFP process that

followed all the standard timelines established by state and city law. Wu added that the city was contacted by the members of the ownership group to keep the city in the loop about the potential to bid for a new team and that the city has been supportive of bringing in as many new opportunities as possible.

A spokesperson for Boston Unity Soccer Partners stated that in pursuit of the NWSL Boston franchise, and a suitable venue for the team's home games, Boston Unity engaged in preliminary and exploratory discussion with the city, and that such exploratory discussions are typical of many municipal processes, and a completely fair and open Request for Proposals process followed.

Last weekend, members of the Franklin Park Defenders, a group of advocates and neighbors opposed to the White Stadium project, gathered at the stadium

to protest the demolition of the stadium and the associated cutting down of trees in Franklin Park.

"Despite mounting public opposition to a planned professional soccer stadium in Boston's historic Franklin Park, construction crews began demolishing White Stadium and clear-cutting trees in the park Friday afternoon," stated a press release from the Franklin Park Defenders. "Dozens of mature trees have been cut down, and crews have begun demolishing the stadium's grandstands."

According to the group, half of the Boston City Council called for an immediate pause on White Stadium demolition and construction until the city releases a fully public renovation option and solidifies other missing plans and commitments.

"The Emerald Necklace Conservancy has proposed such an alternative concept: a high-quality,

fully public renovation of White Stadium that would avoid the many negative impacts of building a professional sports venue in the middle of historic Franklin Park," the group stated. "A detailed cost estimate conducted by Vermeulens, Inc. included in the report found that Boston could renovate White Stadium as a high-quality, fully public high school stadium for \$28.9 million — a fraction of the \$200 million cost of the professional soccer stadium plans, at least \$100 million of which will be covered by Boston taxpayers."

According to the city's website, the goal of renovating White Stadium is to establish it as a premier venue for the Boston Public Schools Athletics Program and a vibrant community hub serving Franklin Park and surrounding communities. The rehabilitation project will expand public access from 9 weekday hours to 15 hours a day, 7 days a week, ac-

ording to city planning officials.

According to the administration, the stadium, built in 1949, currently lacks the necessary facilities and amenities to serve as a comprehensive citywide resource and center for BPS Athletics.

"Through a strategic private partnership, this generational investment in White Stadium is designed to enhance its role within Franklin Park, ensuring greater public access, expanded community programming, and enriched athletic opportunities, all while respecting the historic legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted's design," the city stated on the project website page.

Members of the Franklin Park Defenders also had a standout planned in front of Attorney General Andrea Campbell's office on Wednesday afternoon to fight against what they stated was the privatization of White Stadium and Franklin Park.