In 1942, the Soap Box Derby opening ceremonies were in front of our 10-year-old art deco City Hall. Us race drivers waited inside. An image of that building's glorious brass elevator doors stuck with me.

I had imagined Soap Box Derby racing was just jumping in a car and zooming downhill. Turned out you had to build the car. Dad showed me how to use a draw-shave to shape its wooden axles. We made a brake, using a spring-suspended board and tire tread.

Today I went back to City Hall. The elevator doors are still wonders.

I have long supported the idea of solar and wind sources for electric power as simple solutions to the problem of climate change, almost as simple as hopping into a race car.

Two of us from Sierra Club met with four Buffalo Public School administrators: representatives from engineering, building management, academics and the superintendent.

This experienced group toiled an hour-and-a-half on the nuts and bolts of financing, engineering and persuasion necessary for a “possible” approach to solar power for Buffalo's schools. Do regulations require panels to be on school property? Could city brownfields be used? What about liability? Will it, in practice, save money? We must avoid undercutting other priorities.

Finally, our engineer diagrammed a plan. Maybe it would catch the governor's eye and persuade him to back up the good intentions of the “Climate and Community Protection Act” with actual funding.

Solar energy and Soap Box Derby racing both take considerable work.

Larry Beahan

Amherst
Letter: Soap Box Derby, solar energy both need a concerted effort – The Buffalo News

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They preach family here, and it’s a real thing: Why chemistry matters to the Bills (/2019/09/06/buffalo-bills-nfl-inside-the-bills-chemistry-team/?utm_medium=more_stories)

Know It Now


5. Richert brothers put Tonawanda's Smoke on the Water restaurant up for sale. (https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/richert-brothers-put-smoke-on-the-water-restaurant-up-for-sale/?utm_medium=more_stories)

Crystal Beach memories (https://buffalonews.com/2019/07/01/gallery8629/?utm_medium=more_stories)
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