

Search

THE BUFFALO NEWS (https://buffalonews.com/)



THE BUFFALO NEWS

Letter: Soap Box Derby, solar energy both need a concerted effort

By Staff (https://buffalonews.com/author/staff/)

Published August 26, 2019

(https://buffalonews.com/s/2019/08/26/letter-soap-box-derby-solar-energy-both-need-a-concerted-effort/)

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

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

If you value these stories, please consider subscribing.

Subscribe (https://subscribe.buffalonews.com/?utm_source=article&utm_campaign=support_subs)

Click to see the comments

1



Recommended for you

[\(/2019/09/06/who-is-father-ryszard-biernat-and-why-would-he-secretly-record-bishop-malone/?utm_medium=more_stories\)](https://2019/09/06/who-is-father-ryszard-biernat-and-why-would-he-secretly-record-bishop-malone/?utm_medium=more_stories)
Who is Father Ryszard Biernat, and why would he secretly record Bishop Malone?
[\(/2019/09/06/who-is-father-ryszard-biernat-and-why-would-he-secretly-record-bishop-malone/?utm_medium=more_stories\)](https://2019/09/06/who-is-father-ryszard-biernat-and-why-would-he-secretly-record-bishop-malone/?utm_medium=more_stories)



INSIDE THE BILLS

(/2019/09/06/buffalo-bills-nfl-inside-the-bills-chemistry-team/?utm_medium=more_stories)
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

1. Boy Scout leader from Genesee County arrested on sexual abuse charges. (https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/boy-scout-leader-from-genesee-county-arrested-on-sexual-abuse-charges/?utm_medium=more_stories) > (https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/boy-scout-leader-from-genesee-county-arrested-on-sexual-abuse-charges/?utm_medium=more_stories)

2. Who is Father Ryszard Biernat, and why would he secretly record Bishop Malone? (https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/who-is-father-ryszard-biernat-and-why-would-he-secretly-record-bishop-malone/?utm_medium=more_stories) > (https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/who-is-father-ryszard-biernat-and-why-would-he-secretly-record-bishop-malone/?utm_medium=more_stories)

3. Cuomo seeks to tinker with 2020 dates for federal, state primaries. (https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/cuomo-seeks-to-tinker-with-2020-dates-for-federal-state-primaries/?utm_medium=more_stories) > (https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/cuomo-seeks-to-tinker-with-2020-dates-for-federal-state-primaries/?utm_medium=more_stories)

4. Police: After hit-and-run in Clarence, woman arrested with three empty wine bottles in car. (https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/police-after-hit-and-run-in-clarence-woman-arrested-with-three-empty-wine-bottles-in-car/?utm_medium=more_stories) > (https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/police-after-hit-and-run-in-clarence-woman-arrested-with-three-empty-wine-bottles-in-car/?utm_medium=more_stories)

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) > (https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/richert-brothers-put-smoke-on-the-water-restaurant-up-for-sale/?utm_medium=more_stories)

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

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

(https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/gallery11740/?utm_medium=more_stories)
 (https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/gallery11740/?utm_medium=more_stories)
 (https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/gallery11740/?utm_medium=more_stories)

(https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/gallery11740/?utm_medium=more_stories)
(https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/gallery11740/?utm_medium=more_stories)

#EveryDayAPhoto 2019

(https://buffalonews.com/2019/09/06/gallery11740/?utm_medium=more_stories)

(https://buffalonews.com/2019/08/29/gallery12524/?utm_medium=more_stories)
(https://buffalonews.com/2019/08/29/gallery12524/?utm_medium=more_stories)
(https://buffalonews.com/2019/08/29/gallery12524/?utm_medium=more_stories)
(https://buffalonews.com/2019/08/29/gallery12524/?utm_medium=more_stories)

Share your Bills fan photos

(https://buffalonews.com/2019/08/29/gallery12524/?utm_medium=more_stories)

BEST OF [BN] BLITZ (HTTP://BUFFALONEWS.COM/SECTION/SPORTS/BILLS/?UTM_MEDIUM=MORE_STORIES)

WHY CHEMISTRY MATTERS TO THE BILLS (https://2019/09/06/BUFFALO-BILLS-NFL-INSIDE-THE-BILLS-CHEMISTRY-TEAM/?UTM_MEDIUM=MORE_STORIES)

Sunday's season opener will put Josh Allen in Gregg Williams' line of fire (https://2019/09/06/josh-allen-will-step-into-gregg-williams-line-of-fire/?utm_medium=more_stories)

Bills-Jets Scouting Report (https://2019/09/05/buffalo-bills-new-york-jets-scouting-report-nfl-josh-allen-sam-darnold/?utm_medium=more_stories)

How Micah Hyde, Bills' secondary succeed against deep passes (https://2019/09/05/buffalo-bills-micah-hyde-jordan-poyer-tredavious-white-secondary-disguise-coverage-deter-deep-passes/?utm_medium=more_stories)

News sports writers predict Bills-Jets for Week 1 (https://2019/09/06/buffalo-bills-new-york-jets-predictions-nfl-betting-lines-week-1/?utm_medium=more_stories)

How Brian Daboll plans to improve Bills' offense in 2019 (https://2019/09/05/brian-daboll-buffalo-bills-offensive-coordinator-philosophy-new-england-matchups-josh-allen-downfield-passing/?utm_medium=more_stories)



SEAN KIRST ([HTTPS://BUFFALONEWS.COM/AUTHOR/SKIRST/?UTM_MEDIUM=MORE_STORIES](https://buffalonews.com/author/skirst/?utm_medium=more_stories))

After younger brother killed at Darien, embracing hope over vengeance (/2019/09/05/after-younger-brother-killed-at-darien-hope-as-medicine/?utm_medium=more_stories)

BEST OF GUSTO ([HTTP://BUFFALONEWS.COM/SECTION/GUSTO/?UTM_MEDIUM=MORE_STORIES](http://buffalonews.com/section/gusto/?utm_medium=more_stories))

INDIA GATE RESTAURANT TO REOPEN WITH BELLY-DANCING, BUFFET (/2019/09/05/INDIA-GATE-RESTAURANT-TO-REOPEN-WITH-BELLY-DANCING-BUFFET/?UTM_MEDIUM=MORE_STORIES)

Stashing your bike after summer? Not so fast - try 9 great fall rides (/2019/09/05/stashing-your-bike-after-summer-not-so-fast-here-are-9-great-fall-rides/?utm_medium=more_stories)

At Roost, rakish adventure and down-home satisfaction (/2019/09/05/at-roost-rakish-adventure-and-down-home-satisfaction/?utm_medium=more_stories)

Theater openings: 'Catch 22' at Subversive, 'Hairspray' at Kavinoky (/2019/09/04/theater-openings-catch-22-at-subversive-hairspray-at-kavinoky/?utm_medium=more_stories)

The Weekend in WNY: Llama llovin' offers nice change of pace (/2019/09/05/the-weekend-in-wny-llama-llovin-offers-nice-change-of-pace/?utm_medium=more_stories)

