

THE BUFFALO NEWS

PROSPECTUS

THE YEAR'S BUSINESS FORECAST ■ SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015

When lightning strikes twice

The Buffalo Billion initiative has a great ring to it. A billion dollars from New York State dedicated to reviving the Buffalo Niagara economy. It doesn't get much better than that, right?



Grove Potter

EXECUTIVE BUSINESS EDITOR

state is building on South Park Avenue in Buffalo. Its new owner, SolarCity, is run by Elon Musk, the visionary executive behind Tesla cars and SpaceX, the private space

exploration company.

Musk is a global economic rock star, cited as one of those people who actually changes the course of human history. He is building a gigafactory in Nevada that could make it possible for homeowners to afford to store power generated by solar panels or windmills, essentially taking them off the grid and greatly reducing the need to burn fossil fuels.

Now Buffalo is an integral part of this energy revolution.

And work is ongoing to attract a second solar panel maker here.

Simply put, lightning struck twice.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo has said the real impact of the Buffalo Billion was to change the mindset of Western New York. It was doing that, gradually. But when SolarCity stepped in and expanded the factory five times and boosted overall planned hiring to 2,900, things jumped to another level.

That has a great ring to it, doesn't it?

email: gpotter@buffnews.com



Derek Gee/ Buffalo News

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus 2015

Clean energy 3
Renaissance continues 4-5
43North winners 6

Banking & Finance

Financial services 2-3
Immigrant businesses 4
Law firms 6
Elon Musk 7

Real Estate

Donn Esmonde 2
Downtown living 3
Hot home prices 4-5
New subdivisions 6-7
Commercial real estate 8

Health Care

Medical Campus 2
Rural hospitals 3
Health care start-ups 4-5
Health care hiring 6-7

Millennials

Out & about 2
Most popular majors 3
Where they work 4-5
Coming back 6

Manufacturing/Retail

Local products 2
Robots at work 4-5
Auto sales 6
Small stores 7

ON THE COVER

A photograph taken by News Photographer Robert Kirkham shows Jason Blas welding on the 12th floor at 250 Delaware Ave., future home of Delaware North, in October.

Crews work on the foundation of the massive solar panel manufacturing facility at RiverBend, projected to bring 2,900 jobs to WNY.