

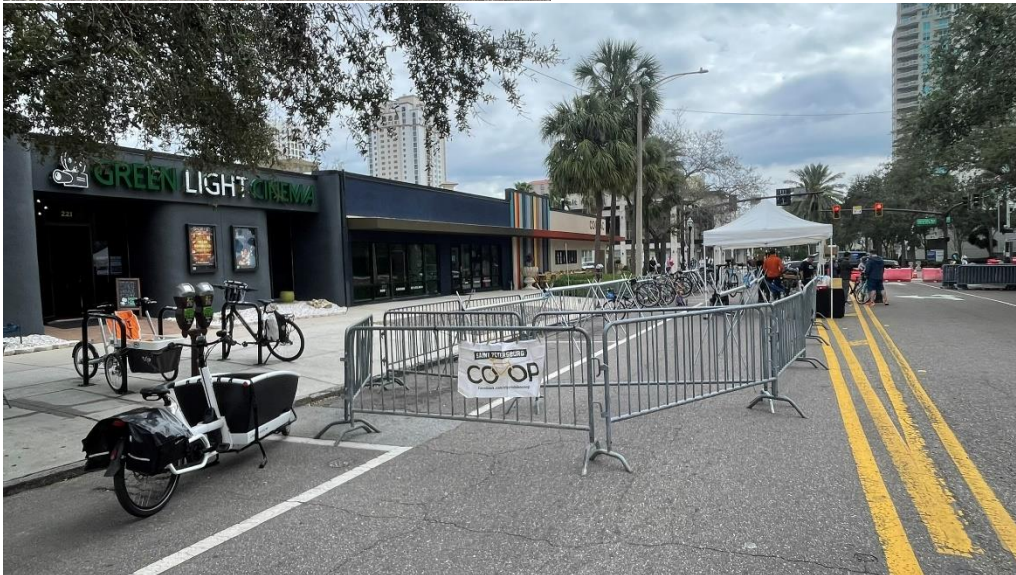
250222 BRA LOCALTOPIA ST PETE FAIR BUY LOCAL



Localtopia is an extravaganza event which happens every year in Saint Petersburg. Last year the attendance was over 50,000 and it probably will reach that if not surpass it this year.

There are many campaigns in all metropolitan areas to “buy local.” Well, this takes that concept to a whole new level. This festival is a celebration of small businesses large medium and small.

My feeling is that if you did not find the business, small artist or enterprise at this festival then it probably does not exist.





Again I am always amazed at the love and attention that entrepreneurs will put into their booths at festivals. If you've never done this before it's a lot harder than it looks. There is a lot of TLC that goes into putting one of these boots together.

Likewise, ingenuity is the source of invention. It never Fails to amaze me how innovative entrepreneurs are. This vendor actually found pieces of the Tropicana Dome field PVC cover which blew off during hurricane Milton. What do you do with these pieces of otherwise trash plastic? You make souvenirs out of them so people buy them. I actually saw quite a bit of interest in this. I wonder who this plastic actually belongs to? I guess it just spoils from the destruction of the storm.



The old Methodist Church was built in 1926 and it stands as a Sentinel observing the market. It was sad to read this week that if it does not find a viable tenant and business to occupy it that it may be demolished. I hope not. It has been there since 1926 and is really a city landmark.

Of course debauched cat apparel. Why didn't I think about this first! When I saw this I didn't know whether it was Scanty clothing for felines or some type of a joke. But it turned out to be avant-garde apparel for adults. The brand name is cats apparel. I guess there's a lot of cat people out there. To each his own.





I have seen this gentlemen bring his chalks to city sidewalks in the past. They organize some young adults every Thursday and they decorate the bike paths in North Shore and Straub Park. When I ride my bike out of respect I will try to get off the sidewalk and ride on the grass so as to not go over their drawings. Harmless enough.



But this takes that concept to another level. If I was a little kid and someone gave me a bucket of chalk and said that I could sit in the middle of a busy intersection and draw on the ground I don't think I would do much else that day. And in fact he had lots of participants for this event. You'll see some other images later during the day to see what I mean.



And of course there is shopping. My wife and daughter had a great time looking through the different stores. Like many of these local events second hand and repurposed clothing is very popular. I think this is a great idea and gives a second use to a lot of garments which are in very good condition.

Very creative . This vendor had business cards that were playing cards on which the contact information was written. And if you were so motivated you could give them your e-mail. Of course my e-mail is so full of messages now that I decided to pass on this request. Yikes.





You can buy a macaroon for \$4.00. I bought one just to participate but this is definitely not a way to satisfy your sweet tooth.

And there are honey bees at the honey vendor. You can buy honey with comb including. I suppose that's the best way to tell that it is real honey.

And another great idea a piece of furniture with drawers that have markers which can be used to draw on the same furniture. I think this is a great idea as long as the kids don't get confused and start drawing on everything else. Yikes.



And the unique and the unusual continues throughout the festival. There is small batch, handmade ice cream for anyone that wants to try the real thing. The ice cream was in a good portion and was delicious bread it did not have a heavy cream or excessive sugary taste.

I have seen the gentleman type out poems and messages on the fly. He is very clever and you can give him any treatise to start with and he'll hammer out your personalized poem on a typewriter. I wonder how many of the small children and teenagers were scratching their head at this contraption.

Meanwhile, General Kosciuszko stood gallantly by looking at all the activity. I guess he has seen many things come and go in this park. He would be shocked at how things have changed. Many for the good.



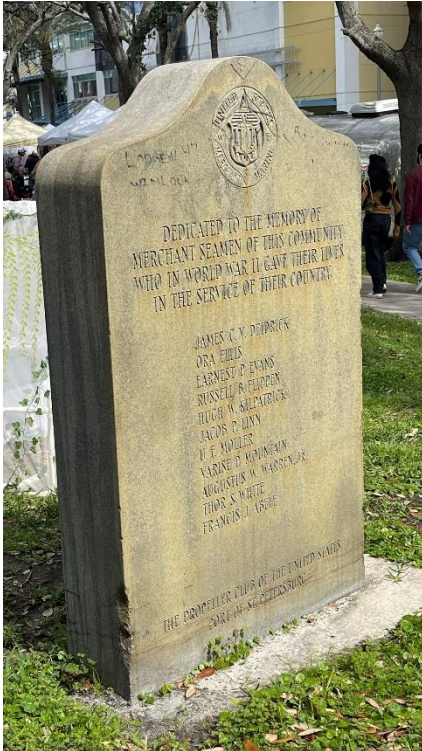
We arrived at 10:00 AM which is the start time for the festival. I took some pictures at that time but they're not very interesting because there's not many people at this early hour. But trust if you come by noon or 1:00 that there will be 10s of thousands no citizens participating. It's great to see this level of support for the businesses in Saint Petersburg. By all means if you are here during the Localtopia first of all you should bring your whole family and spend the day. Bring a wagon for small children because they'll have a great time.



And there's just a lot to do and a lot to see. Some things are so well done and I have so much craft and love that they make fantastic personal gifts. I always love to buy birthday and Christmas gifts at these festivals and put them away. You will spend 40 to \$60.00 but you'll have something that is unique and handmade. You can easily spend that on any online platform and get a cookie cutter machine made gift for about the same price.

And the festival has some fun built in. Here we see some ladies promoting an end to the patriarchy. Why not! Everybody's having fun doing whatever motivates them while hurting no one else. Win win.





I have been riding by this park and walking through it for 30 plus years. I think I know all the memorials that are erected in this walk that was donated by Mr. Williams to the city in The early 1900s. But this is an example of a monument I did not know existed. It's a monument to members of the Merchant Seamen that perished during World War two. Unfortunately it has some graffiti on it but all in all it's in good shape. How soon we forget.



I was not able to capture this vendor trying to demonstrate balance exercises. He had these rails which were on stands and he was able with his bare feet to balance on them . I guess when you're young you can do this kind of stuff. Again there's a little bit of everything for anybody at this market. I guess the arrows on the sidewalk are supposed to attract your attention; they did mine.



There were rare insects and butterflies of different types that were available for purchase. Mostly the children and adults were fascinated by the different types of insects that were on display.

My family had a great time and we stopped for a quick lunch and something to drink. There is an entire street that is dedicated to venues that sell all types of food. There are some really unique items here that you can try. There's a little bit here for everybody no matter your taste.





This is a service that sets up boutique picnic experiences in public spaces. i have seen this is done and i think it's a wonderful idea. It's also great that they allow it to happen in our parks. It's not inexpensive but if it is a unique event like a wedding, or birthday for a significant other, then it's well worth your time and money. It really is great to see this in a public setting. You will definitely feel special if somebody does this for you.



But this is just fun. It's great for families, children, adults young and old. Don't miss this every year. It's always in the February time frame and it's a tour of the force in local business participation and the public support. Bring your Christmas and birthday shopping list and put some unique gifts away for the year. Money well spent.





THE END