

Historic Downtown Clermont's First Friday Family-Friendly Event just keeps getting better. That's what many of the thousand-plus guests each month will say. It's easy to understand why. First, there's delicious food from Central Florida's most popular gourmet Food Trucks. Next, there's a free concert series that features a different genre of music performed by a different group of professional musicians each month. Then, there's about 30 vendors of arts & crafts and a variety of handmade and home-made wearables, collectables and the like on the street. Next, there's a number of Downtown shops with unique and one-of-a-kind gifts, antiques, accessories and more that are welcome First Friday strollers and shoppers. Finally, add in the City of Clermont permitting adults visitors to responsibly enjoy alcoholic beverages outdoors within the confines of the event and First Fridays in the historic business district of Downtown Clermont, and suddenly, after nearly three years of tweaking, the Clermont Downtown Partnership has created an event worth attending.

All the activities begin at 6:00pm on the First Friday of each month. The city streets near City Hall Park at 7th and Montrose officially close at 5:00pm so the Food Trucks and street vendors will be ready for the night's guests. Chefs swing into action and many "early birds" take advantage of being among the first served. The band sets up on the west side of City Hall where the landing at the top of the steps provides what must have been an unplanned, but fortunate, natural stage. The City of Clermont delivers six to eight picnic tables. Many guests enjoy their choice of food and drink from their lawn chairs or blankets while listening to the music. A quick scan of the crowd finds Boomers, Gen-X-ers, Millennials, Florida's Matures, and even GenZ Boomlets! Needless to say, the Family Friendly event attracts multiple generations – often of the same family!

Social media plays a significant role in the following of Food Trucks. Groups of friends and co-workers, as well as associations and sports teams "follow" certain chefs. These followers love to meet and mingle at events that feature "their Food Truck", sometimes traveling quite a distance to satisfy their cravings. Food Trucks use Twitter and other media to "Tweet" their coming locations; "followers" re-Tweet to their friends and so forth. Gatherings are planned around the Food Truck event – and the evening unfolds with the feel of a huge "reunion". Downtown Clermont is now well-known among the Twitter and other social media crowds as a great place to gather. That's because Clermont is now drawing many of Central Florida's finest and most popular Food Trucks. Having excellent music to enjoy adds to the popularity of Food Truck followers showing up at City Hall Park on the First Friday of each month.

About Food Trucks: All food is prepared to order and your taste buds will be delighted. Enjoy dishes such as Lobster Rolls, Cuban, Philly Cheesesteak, gourmet Burgers and Hot Dogs, Ice Cream and other desserts – just to name a few specialties. The trucks and the menus change every month! Part of the attraction is that everyone can get something different – and share – or not! By the way, the City of Clermont has designated Food Truck area as an open container zone. Adult beverages are available from licensed providers adjacent to the event.