

You can't have a 4th of July best-dressed list without kicking it off with emcee Austin Tellam. From the head-to-toe red, white and blue to the American bald eagle face paint, he sets the standard for the parade.

The Best List: 4th of July Edition

The Islander News is introducing a new feature to showcase the best of Key Biscayne. Whether it be the best outdoor cycling routes or most popular books at the library or the top *café con leches* on the Key, we'll look to offer insight on our community's gems.

If you have an idea for The Best List, email it to editor@islandernews.com.

This week, we're taking a look back at the good times that kicked off the month of July – the 4th of July Parade. Key Biscayne's parade is festive from the inside out, meaning both participants and viewers get in on the fun of dressing in their patriotic best. So, without further ado, here are the best-dressed parade entries and viewers that our caught our photographers' eyes this year.



Why even have a parade if there aren't kids around to cheer on the marching bands and floats? This young parade-goer got in on the fun with a Lady Liberty crown, patriotic lei and this year's chosen way to keep cool in the summer heat – a water gun.



No 4th of July Parade best list is complete without the stilt walkers. These men and women are one of the most memorable and beloved traditions of Key Biscayne's annual festivities, bringing a Caribbean vibe and colorful costumes to the festivities.



The flowing robe, the face paint, the crown and torch…these are all great, but they aren't the best part of this Statue of Liberty costume. The best part is what's on her button and written on the stem of her torch: a reminder to all of us to exercise our right to vote.



These guys have the right idea – a shaded way to ride the parade route and plenty of red, white and blue.



People like the men of the Richard L. Cromartie American Legion Post 374 are the reason we get to have a 4th of July parade. In our opinion, they belong on pretty much any Best List.



This parade-goer's Declaration of Independence T-shirt reminds us what we're celebrating.

Photos by CHANTAL LAWRIE and LEO QUINTANA/Islander News