

"Making Life a Little Better"

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Making Life a Little Better™*. Our title is taken from the founding concept of making life better for those who are served by VIP America. It's a philosophy that extends to not only those whom we help to stay independent, it extends to everyone who is part of the VIP America family. Whether you are a caregiver, someone who is receiving care or those who make the organization run smoothly each and every day, our goal is *Making Life a Little Better™* for each and every one of you.

No where is that more evident than what we have seen over the past many weeks and months as an invisible virus has taken its toll on the most vulnerable in our communities. Throughout the days and weeks VIP America has been there to make sure that the health and welfare of those whose lives we touch has been uncompromised.

It has meant establishing new protocols for a wide variety of what used to be normal day-to-day activities all designed to keep us safe from the COVID-19 virus. Personal Protective Equipment, a phrase well known by care givers has become a familiar alphabet acronym of PPE for pretty much everyone in our communities.

We are especially proud of care givers who have donned their PPEs and braved serious situations to truly make life a little better for those receiving care whether it be in their homes, nursing and care facilities, and even on the front lines of care in the many hospitals throughout the regions served by VIP America.

You will find a special video message from our

VIP America President Jill Ball at the bottom of this column. Because this is a digital publication, those of you who are reading online will be able to simply click on the link beneath the photo and view the special message to our caregivers. Please feel free to copy the link and share with as many people as you can and ask them to become our friends on Facebook.

In many ways, social distancing has brought us closer together. The feeling of being apart from what we used to think of as being normal is a really "weird" feeling -- to quote many people who say things just felt different. The more we kept our distance from normality, the more we all moved closer to family and the things that really matter to us.

We've all, most likely, discovered the things that matter most to us center on how we can individually and collectively make things better for those who look to us for care, compassion, understanding, and support.

It brings us full circle to doing our part to *Making Life a Little Better™* for someone in everything we do. We hope our newsletter has information and news you can use to make life a little better for you.



Watch Video: <https://youtu.be/Yw3g4t0U4X4>

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HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE!

The thunderstorms and afternoon showers are but a gentle reminder from Mother Nature that we are now into the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Now is the time to make sure you are prepared for tropical storms and any hurricanes that may threaten our areas.

VIP America values the safety of each and every one of our staff and all caregivers and, especially, the safety of those who rely on our skills to receive the care they need no matter where they may call home.

Please check out our website where you will find some important tips and checklists for Hurricane Survival.

Since COVID-19 is fresh on the minds of everyone, we want to remind you that this hurricane season it's critical to have a family discussion and make a decision EARLY on whether you will be evacuating from your home or staying. Of course, if you live in a mandatory Evacuation Zone, you may have no choice but to evacuate.

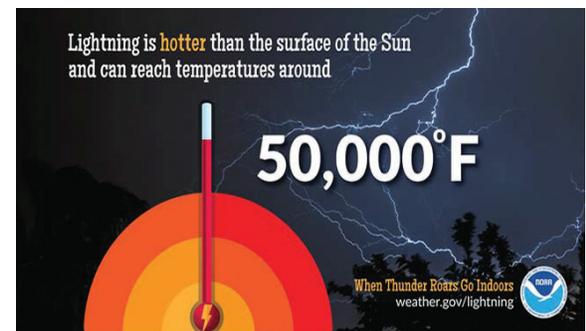
If you do evacuate, will your destination be a friend or relative's home? How about a hotel? Please watch your local news for updates on whether the State of Florida and FEMA will be offering the option to check into a safe hotel in advance of a hurricane landfall. You may, as a way of preparing in advance, check with your hotel of choice to see if they will be participating in this special program.

And, don't forget that even if we are not immediately threatened by a tropical storm or hurricane we still have those thunderstorms we mentioned above. If you don't have a lightning surge protection system in place at your home or business, now is the time to make a decision on what you can afford to lose should lightning strike!

We are all about STAYING SAFE. Please feel free to share your comments and input on our social media page to do your part to prepare for, survive, and recover from Hurricane Season 2020.



What Can You Afford to Lose? Heat, humidity, and sea breezes from two coasts means your chances of damage from lightning is very high.



***If it Roars...Stay Indoors!* Did you know Florida is the Lightning capital of the USA? It kills more people than any other weather issue in the Sunshine State.**

Hurricane Season 2020

The 2020 Hurricane Season officially began June 1 and runs through November. Experts are predicting an above average season for Florida this year. Make sure you check out the VIP America website for the latest updates on how to prepare for and survive this hurricane season. This year's hurricane names are:

Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, Wilfred. Wondering what to stock up on for Hurricane Season? Our website has information you can use to help you prepare for and survive one of Mother Nature's fiercest storms.

Sometimes, laughter is the BEST medicine after all

Q: Did you hear the one about the germ?

A: Never mind, I don't want to spread it around.

Q: Why did the pillow go to the doctor?

A: He was feeling all stuffed up!

Q: How is a man like the weather?

A: Nothing can be done to change either one of them.

Q: What did the ocean say to the other ocean?

A: Nothing they just waved

Q: Why did the nursing student stare at the carton of orange juice?

A: It said concentrate.

Q: Why did the orange stop rolling down the hill?

A: Because it ran out of juice!

Q: What do you call a crocodile with GPS?

A: A Navi-gator.

Q: What do you call an alligator that sneaks up and bites you from behind?

A: A tail-gater.

Q: What do you call an alligator in a vest?

A: An Investigator

Q: What do you call a pile of kittens?

A: A meowntain

A VIP Favorite:
GHOST PEPPER JELLY

Total Time: 30 min
Prep: 15 min
Cook: 15 min



INGREDIENTS:

- 3 Large Red Bell Peppers
- 3 Ghost Peppers and 6 cups of sugar
- 2 Cups Apple Cider Vinegar
- Rubber Gloves -- one pair
- 6 small canning jars
- A ladle and large spoon
- 1 pack of liquid pectin

1. Place rubber gloves on hands -- very important.
2. Remove seeds from bell peppers and slice into small sections.
3. Remove stem from Ghost Peppers -- deseed if you desire.
4. Place Ghost Peppers and Bell Peppers in a blender.
5. Add one cup of apple cider vinegar to peppers mix.
6. Blend on liquify until ingredients are liquid.
7. Set liquid peppers aside.
8. Place canning jars and lids in a pot of boiling water for 10 minutes.
9. Remove jars and place lids nearby.
10. Place 6 cups of sugar in a large pot.
11. Add liquid pepper mix and bring to a rapid boil.
12. Stir constantly with large spoon for 10 minutes.
13. After 10 minutes, add one pack of pectin and continue to stir for one minute.
14. Remove hot mixture from heat and skim any foam from the mixture if so desired.
15. Ladle into jars and tighten lids (but not too tight).
16. Place filled jars back into hot boiling water for 10 minutes.
17. Remove jars from boiling water and allow to cool for 24 hours in a draft free space.
18. Carefully wash all items used in the jelly process being careful to not touch sensitive skin areas.
19. After 24 hours, jelly is ready to use.
20. Use jelly sparingly on meats, fish, in soups, and on crackers with cream cheese.

WARNING GHOST PEPPER JELLY IS NOT FOR THE FAINT HEARTED OR THOSE WITH AN AVERSION TO SPICY FOODS. HOWEVER, IF YOU LOVE SPICY WITH A SWEET TASTE, YOU WILL LOVE OUR HOME GROWN RECIPE. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH OUR VERY SPECIAL RECIPE FOR THE VIP AMERICA GHOST PEPPER JELLY!

HOT HOT HOT



Hurricane Word Search

Our word search contains the names of storms and information you may want to know to be better prepared throughout the 2020 Hurricane Season. Solve the puzzle and win a prize! Everyone who submits the puzzle gets registered for a future drawing.

Scan and email completed puzzle to:

Sam.Yates@vipamerica.com

T	A	E	R	U	T	A	R	E	P	M	E	T	R	E	T	A	W	E	Z
R	M	F	B	O	Q	L	Y	H	I	D	P	Y	V	K	O	X	I	Y	M
O	V	N	O	S	P	M	I	S	J	H	U	R	R	I	C	A	N	E	P
P	G	Z	H	W	F	R	E	W	K	S	T	O	R	M	Y	A	D	O	E
I	V	N	N	A	L	V	A	G	D	L	O	G	R	A	W	O	R	Y	G
C	C	O	R	I	O	L	I	S	E	F	F	E	C	T	O	D	E	M	R
A	H	S	S	L	R	E	Y	K	P	Z	B	T	O	L	P	H	S	Q	U
L	U	P	T	S	I	R	M	W	A	M	Y	A	F	J	T	C	I	R	S
D	G	M	L	F	D	Q	J	E	E	P	I	C	K	Y	R	T	W	G	M
E	H	I	C	T	A	W	G	V	O	D	A	N	R	O	T	A	K	E	R
P	Q	S	M	E	A	L	O	W	J	S	R	D	F	S	B	W	C	S	O
R	X	R	L	P	E	N	O	L	C	Y	C	L	A	C	I	P	O	R	T
E	W	I	Z	B	M	A	D	S	Q	E	R	O	J	N	K	A	L	E	S
S	A	F	F	I	R	Y	X	R	O	T	C	M	E	O	I	S	C	Y	Z
S	R	F	L	A	N	K	A	Y	E	T	L	A	R	S	Z	R	V	W	I
I	N	A	Q	B	O	S	I	X	S	W	O	S	B	Y	H	K	T	E	C
O	I	S	R	E	Z	L	K	A	R	Y	A	L	L	A	F	D	N	A	L
N	N	L	A	N	D	O	E	M	Z	P	S	R	X	P	G	M	J	R	K
S	G	C	O	U	N	T	E	R	C	L	O	C	K	W	I	S	E	H	S
M	R	A	N	J	W	V	A	O	C	I	X	E	M	F	O	F	L	U	G

Find the following words:

*Andrew Category Clockwise Coriolis Effect
Counterclockwise East Coast Eye Flood Florida Gulf of
Mexico Hurricane June Katrina Landfall November
Saffir-Simpson Storm Surge Tornado Tropical Cyclone
Tropical Depression Warning Watch Water Temperature
Wind*



Are You Ready?
www.vipamerica.com

President's Message



Jill Ball
President, VIP America

VIP America Salutes Caregivers

As you can tell from the tone of this newsletter, we do a lot of preparing for the wellbeing of caregivers, staff and clients. It gets back to the founding philosophy of VIP America.

Today, it's been more than two decades since Joan and Jim Collins formed a company of "VIPS – very important people" working behind-the scenes to ensure the very best in compassionate, skilled home health care services for their 'very important' clients, served up by a network of 'very important' caregivers. This is why we are called **VIP America**.

Since opening its doors in 1997 in Stuart the company has grown today to serve 16 counties, including Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, Palm Beach, and Okeechobee, with plans to expand their focused, client-centered way of doing business into more Central Florida areas next.

Even after more than two decades the company's logo – a star – remains a mainstay in its make-up with points representing company values of integrity shared between internal staff, clients and caregivers. It's all connected like points on a star. And, it's up to all of us to keep it connected. Everything we do is focused on that concept.

Today, with COVID-19, millions of unemployed nationwide, and many other challenges, its is more important than ever that I take a moment on behalf of each and every employee and our management team to say a special "Thank You" to caregivers who have been on the front line of danger making sure our "star" shines brighter than ever before.

To salute those on the front lines, I urge you to let us know about someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to keep our star shining. **We want to make sure we recognize those very valuable employees or caregivers with a special STAR pin for their dedication.** And, for all of you we offer a very special THANK YOU for all you continue to do.

Jill Ball President VIP America



www.VIPAmerica.com

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