

Community Newsletter

Roma Management

Happy Holidays



Wishing you a warm and joyful holiday season! We're grateful to have you as part of our community and hope the weeks ahead bring comfort, connection, and celebration. Thank you for choosing to call this place home.

Happy holidays from all of us!



Roma Management

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Winterization Reminders

As temperatures drop, we want to help protect your home from cold-weather damage. Please make sure all exterior faucets have faucet covers securely in place to prevent pipes from freezing. Inside your home, keep the heat set to at least 65 degrees, even if you're away, to maintain proper circulation and protect plumbing lines.

If you will be gone for more than ten days, please notify management so we can keep an eye on the property and ensure everything stays safe during colder weather. A few simple steps can prevent costly winter damage and keep your home comfortable all season long.

Stay safe, and thank you for your attention to this important matter!

Newsletter Highlights

Travel and Package Safety

Local Holiday Events

Giving Back

New Year Insights

Winter Recipe Feature





Travel & Package Safety Tips

The holiday season is a busy time for travel, and for packages! Whether you're heading out for a vacation, visiting family, or just enjoying a long weekend, it's important to take steps to keep your deliveries safe while you're away. Here are some practical tips to help ensure your packages arrive securely.

1. Use Delivery Alerts

Most carriers, including UPS, FedEx, and USPS, offer tracking updates and delivery notifications. Sign up for email or text alerts so you know exactly when your packages arrive. This helps you arrange pickup quickly if you're not home.

2. Consider a Secure Delivery Location

If possible, have packages delivered to a secure location:

- Parcel lockers or smart boxes
- Workplace (with employer permission)
- Neighbor or trusted friend/family member

These options greatly reduce the risk of theft.

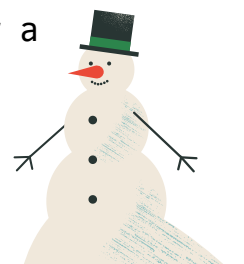


3. Hold Packages While Traveling

Most carriers offer a "Hold for Pickup" or "Vacation Hold" option. This lets you pause deliveries while you're away, so packages aren't left unattended at your door.

4. Request Signature Confirmation

For valuable items, request a signature upon delivery. This ensures the package is handed directly to someone at your address or a secure pickup point.



Local Holiday Events



Here are five favorite family-friendly holiday events in the Bellingham / Whatcom County area, great for the upcoming season.

1. Holiday Port Festival (at the Port of Bellingham Cruise Terminal)

When: The first weekend of December each year in Bellingham.

What to expect: Free, family-friendly festival with live performances, gingerbread house display/contest, photos with Santa, children's activities.

Why it's great: Brings a festive, communal vibe downtown right before the holidays, a nice way for families to kick off the season.

2. Fairhaven Winterfest (in the Fairhaven district)

What it is: A beloved local holiday celebration, thousands of lights, carriage rides, tree lighting, visits with Santa, luminary forest, Victorian carolers.

Why it's great for families: Lots of visual holiday magic, walkable village atmosphere, fun for both younger and older kids.

Tip: Dress warmly! Bellingham winters are chilly, and enjoying lights outdoors means layering up.

3. Holiday Festival of the Arts (Whatcom County)

What it is: A longstanding holiday event featuring over 100 regional artisans, live music, children's workshops, and crafts.

Why it's family friendly: Great for doing holiday shopping together, kids can engage with craft stations, and adults enjoy local artisan culture.

Tip: Arrive early if you like browsing vendor booths before it gets crowded.



Giving Back and Celebrating Community Spirit

The holiday season is the perfect time to come together, support one another, and spread kindness throughout our community. Whether through donations, volunteering, or simple acts of generosity, every effort helps brighten someone's day. Here are a few meaningful ways to give back this season.

Holiday Charity Highlights:

Looking to support local families in need? Here are a few trusted places to donate this year:

- Local Food Banks: Nonperishable items such as canned goods, rice, pasta, and baby supplies are always needed.
- Coat and Warm Clothing Drives: Gently worn coats, hats, gloves, and winter clothing can make a big difference for those facing cold weather.
- Toy Donation Programs: Help make the holidays special for children by donating new, unwrapped toys to local drives or nonprofit organizations.

These programs rely on community generosity, and even small contributions add up to make a large impact.

Community Volunteer Opportunities

Giving your time is one of the most meaningful gifts of all. Many local shelters and community organizations offer seasonal volunteer opportunities, including:

- Serving meals at shelters or community kitchens
- Sorting donations at food banks
- Assisting with gift distribution at holiday toy events
- Supporting local senior centers with card-writing or friendly visits



Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, make a difference, and feel connected during the holidays.



Pre New Year Insight

*New year loading... please remain calm.
Sparkle, reset, and try not to trip over the clutter.*

As the new year approaches, it's time for our annual tradition of pretending we have our lives completely together. A great place to start is with a little home organization, also known as "opening that one closet door very slowly just in case everything falls out." Pick a small project like cleaning out the pantry (yes, that mystery spice from 2016 can go) or finally creating a spot for your keys so you don't spend every morning doing the "Where are my keys?" dance.

New Year's resolutions are also on the horizon. Whether you're aiming to eat healthier, exercise more, save money, or simply drink water like a responsible adult, choose goals that won't make you want to give up by January 3rd. Break them into tiny steps; progress is progress, even if you start by just stretching once or drinking water out of a fancy cup.

And don't forget to peek at local New Year events. You might find a fitness class, a community gathering, or, at the very least, an activity you can sign up for with full intentions of attending (we believe in you). Wherever the new year takes you, may it be organized, inspired, and full of laughs, even if you're still opening that closet door with caution.





5-Ingredient Peppermint Chocolate Bark

Ingredients

12 oz dark or semisweet chocolate chips

12 oz white chocolate chips

½ tsp peppermint extract (optional)

4–5 candy canes, crushed

Pinch of sea salt



Instructions

1. Prep: Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Melt dark chocolate: Microwave in 20–30 second bursts, stirring until smooth. Spread into a thin layer on the parchment.
3. Melt white chocolate: Melt the same way. Stir in peppermint extract if using. Drizzle or spread gently over the dark chocolate.
4. Swirl: Use a toothpick to create decorative swirls.
5. Top it: Sprinkle crushed candy canes and a pinch of sea salt over the top.
6. Set: Refrigerate for 20–30 minutes, then break into pieces.

Tip: Package pieces in small bags or tins for easy holiday gifts!