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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?®



## New Mayor Takes Oath

Incoming Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler signs papers Friday as part of taking his oath of office during a private ceremony with his wife and daughter at City Hall. Wheeler will hold a public inauguration on Wednesday, Jan. 4 at Jason Lee Elementary in northeast Portland.

## Winter Weather Warning

### Caution urged as extreme cold turns deadly

BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A homeless man's death in east Portland on Monday was blamed on freezing weather as an extended bout of extreme cold hit the Portland area over the New Year's holiday weekend with temperatures not expected to rise above freezing for several days.

A severe weather warning and advisory for the greater Portland Metro area was issued by the National Weather Service for the Portland area through Sunday, Jan. 8. Freezing temperatures and high winds are expected over the next few days, with possibilities of freezing rain and snow this weekend.

Residents are urged to use caution with low visibility during storms and to be aware of down power lines. A winter weather advisory for snow and frozen rain

means travel difficulties should be expected. If possible, try to delay any trips or take public transit when possible. Tire chains may be required.

To keep pipes from freezing inside your home, let cold water drip from each faucet and keep your thermostat at the same temperature both day and night. Remember to cover outdoor faucets.

With temperatures in the low single digits several nights this week, city and county leaders are encouraging houseless people to seek shelter.

Public buildings such as community centers and libraries are open to unsheltered people for use during the day to stay warm. To find a list of libraries and their hours of operation visit [multcolib.org/](http://multcolib.org/). A list of community centers in the city can be found at [portlandoregon.gov/parks/39839](http://portlandoregon.gov/parks/39839).

As temperatures drop at night, there is an increased risk of exposure and possible death for people living outside. On Monday, police officers responded to

a welfare check on a man outside under a blanket near the 9900 block of East Burnside Street.

Authorities determined the man, identified Mark Elliot Johnson, 51, died of hypothermia a few hours before officers arrived. County leaders are asking that should you see someone outside, unsheltered whose life appears to be in danger or is in a medical emergency to call 9-1-1. For non-emergency calls or to have a welfare check on someone whom you believe to be in danger, call 503-823-3333.

Houseless people are also encouraged to dial toll free 2-1-1 for access the nearest warming shelter. Severe weather shelters will be open to all individuals, couples, children, their pets and belongings. The severe weather shelters will not require identification or documentation.

Donations for unsheltered people, such as coats, hats, gloves and socks are in great need. Call 2-1-1 to find the donation center nearest you to make a contribution.