

s personnel in leadership positions Childhood Center, will replace the school.

ously occupied by John Young.

City opens cooling centers for heat wave

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

City officials issued a public warning to residents last week to alert them to the heat wave that produced record high temperatures throughout New Jersey.

In response to the sweltering heat that settled over the area last week, Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. issued the advisory during the middle of week. In it, he designated the community room of the Orange Housing Authority's senior building and the Orange Public Library as "cooling centers."

As part of the advisory, heat-related information was issued to residents. They were informed that heat-related illnesses are common when the temperature is above 95 degrees and the humidity exceeds 80 percent.

"People most at risk are infants and older adults," Hawkins said. "Other risk factors include dehydration, fatigue, obesity, people with chronic disease, such as heart disease and diabetes."

As the temperature was being measured Friday at a record high of 108 degrees in Newark, Orange and the rest of New Jersey were also suffering. Other record highs included 105 degrees in Trenton and 104 degrees in Atlantic City. The utility company PSE&G officials reported that at least 15,000 heat-related power outages occurred throughout that day.

Essex County officials estimated the outages included 8,000 customers in portions of Bloomfield, Glen Ridge and Montclair who lost service for more than an hour Friday night when power lines serving two substations approached dangerously high levels of usage. PSE&G reportedly cut the service to preserve the power grid.

In nearby East Orange, Anthony Puglisi, a spokesman for Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo Jr., said Friday's oppressive temperatures led to the closing of the county's One-Stop Career Center on South Clinton Avenue.

"The building was closed at about noon," he said. "Clients who had appointments were told

to return Monday, when the air conditioning would be up and running."

Puglisi added the county's Richard J. Codey Arena in West Orange was designated as a cooling center through the weekend.

Hawkins said that while last week's heat wave is over, city residents can still benefit from using information that is available on the city's website at www.ci.orange.nj. That includes summer tips for staying cool, including wearing loose, light-colored clothing and a hat; stay hydrated and eating small meals; drinking water or sport drinks frequently during the day; taking frequent breaks in shady or air-conditioned areas to cool down; and taking time to acclamate to conditions before outdoor activities.

One serious effect of the hot weather is heatstroke. Hawkins said symptoms of heatstroke include confusion, bizarre behavior, loss of coordination, hallucinations, agitation and seizures. He recommended emergency personnel be called immediately if symptoms appear.