

Water warning lifted as main is repaired

By Zucal, Managing Editor, Orange Transcript

Crews are nearing completion of repairs to a water main which was damaged last week and caused city officials to warn residents about water quality.

City officials said a 20-inch transmission line, which fed water to Orange's system from the city's wells in Millburn, was damaged March 17 after heavy rains the previous weekend weakened the ground surrounding it. After the damage was discovered, they issued a "boil water" advisory in the event contaminants, such as dirt and bacteria from the ground, entered the supply.

Arlene Kemp, the city's public works director, said there was a delay in locating the damage as the water main is located along a riverbed. Shortly after the damage was reported and pinpointed, Kemp asked residents to limit their use of water. Officials also utilized interconnections within the city as well as outside sources, including East Orange's water system.

The connection with East Orange's system was not without problems, though, said Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. Hawkins said Friday a pump used to send water from East Orange, via fire hydrants, had stopped functioning. Alternative methods were used.