By MICHELLE MONROE
Staff Writer

John Keating, Milton’s new emergency management coordinator, gave the selectboard an update on how the coronavirus and efforts to prevent its spread by reducing person-to-person contact are impacting the town’s operations.

Those with the greatest need to take precautions are the town’s first responders. When dispatching calls, the dispatcher will screen for exposure to the coronavirus, explained Keating. If there is a chance the caller has been exposed “the rescue crew will take extra precautions,” he said.

Trainings will take place online and access to the rescue building has been limited to the crew on duty. “We have basically sealed the rescue building. No one other than rescue should be in the building,” town manager Don Turner told the Independent. The rescue teams will do their own cleaning.

Several St. Michael’s College students also serve on Milton Rescue. With the college shifting to online learning, only one of those students has left the roster, Turner said.

In addition, crews have been Milton town takes steps to reduce contact

Family center closes preschool

Food shelf remains open

By MICHELLE MONROE
Staff Writer

The Milton Family and Community Center (MFCC) is closing its preschool and afterschool programs. The food shelf will remain open.

MFCC director Vikki Patterson said she hopes to reopen the preschool on April 1.

One of the challenges for the center is childcare. “Many of our staff have school age children,” Patterson said. And those children will be home as schools close.

There are 30 infants, toddlers and preschoolers in the center’s preschool program. Another 40 children are served by the afterschool program, which takes place at the school. That program will reopen when the school does.

The food shelf will remain open with reduced hours. “We are still available to them until we run out,” Patterson said. The food shelf is typically open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will be open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon.

Governor addresses school closings, other measures

By MICHELLE MONROE
Staff Writer

MONTPELIER — Schools in Vermont were closed because transmission of the novel coronavirus responsible for COVID-19 is now passing between community members in Vermont, the state health commissioner Dr. Mark Levine explained at a press conference on Monday.

Schools across the state will close on Wednesday until April 6, although an extension is possible.

Following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Gov. Phil Scott has altered his previous emergency order limiting gatherings to 50 people or 50 percent of capacity, whichever is smaller.

State workers are working from home and limiting in-person interactions. There will be 90-day extensions for expiring driver’s licenses.

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