



Brevard Public Schools is considering consolidating Cape View Elementary School in Cape Canaveral with Roosevelt Elementary School in Cocoa Beach. MALCOLM DENEMARK, FLORIDA TODAY

# District considers closure of Cape View Elementary

Community rallying to save island’s lone school

**Finch Walker**  
Florida Today  
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

As Brevard Public Schools works to balance funds for repairs on aging buildings and schools with low enrollment, Cape View Elementary School in Cape Canaveral may be shuttered.

The news, discussed at a Sept. 23 work session, was initially met with scattered calls for the school to remain open, with one person speaking at the Oct. 7 board meeting about the topic during public comment. Now the school community is coming together with plans to rally to ask the board to keep the school open, said Rajesh Ravisankar, president of the school’s parent teacher organization.

“This is the only school (on) the island,” Ravisankar said. “The school has

“The classroom sizes are 12 to 15 max. When we get consolidated with Roosevelt ... that’s going to double easily, which as a parent, I would like to have a smaller classroom for my children. It’s where the student to teacher ratio goes out of proportion when we consolidate.”

**Rajesh Ravisankar**  
President of Cape View Elementary School parent teacher organization

existed for more than six decades, and this is the only educational institution the community has.”

This isn’t the first time the issue has been broached.

Back in April, the district talked with board members about consolidating McNair Middle School into Kennedy Middle School and Cape View into Roosevelt Elementary School.

At the time, there was little public reaction to Cape View, while community members rallied in support of keeping

McNair open and families packed an April 8 school board meeting to ask the district to refrain from closing it.

Whether Cape View will close isn’t a decision that’s been made yet.

At a Sept. 23 work session, Sue Hann, assistant superintendent of facilities services, presented the possibility to the board. The change would impact about 270 students in the Cape Canaveral area, she said.

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# Blue Origin plans site to refurbish its rockets

**Rick Neale**  
Florida Today  
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Blue Origin plans to construct a vertical refurbishment facility near its New Glenn rocket launch pad at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, continuing the company’s expansion across Florida’s Space Coast.

Bearing the secretive code name Project Alpha, the future industrial facility on 30 acres off Armory Road near Blue Origin’s Launch Complex 36 will be used to repair, rebuild and reuse large and small rocket components, St. Johns River Water Management District permitting records indicate.

SpaceX has a similar facility.

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**John A. Torres**  
Columnist  
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# Discussing homeless in the rain – for 24 hours

Maybe the deluge that greeted New Life Mission CEO Amy Lyon and CITA Rescue Mission CEO Buddy Morrow on the afternoon of Oct. 9 and much of Oct. 10 — as they spent 24 hours on a bench in downtown Melbourne sparking a community conversation about the homeless — was serendipitous.

Being exposed to the elements seems only right while discussing the homeless problem in Brevard County.

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# DeSantis signs death warrant in girl’s ’79 rape, killing

**Mara Bellaby**  
Florida Today  
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a death warrant Oct. 10 for a man convicted of kidnapping a 6-year-old Merritt Island girl from her bedroom, raping and killing her in 1979.

Bryan Frederick Jennings, 66, is scheduled to be executed at 6 p.m. Nov. 13 and could be the 16th inmate put to death by lethal injection this year in

Florida. The state has carried out 13 executions and is slated to put to death Samuel Smithers on Oct. 14 and Norman Grim on Oct. 28.

On May 11, 1979, Bryan Jennings was drawn to a nightlight in Rebecca “Becky” Kunash’s Merritt Island window as the girl slept. Her parents were asleep in another part of the house.

He removed the screen, opened the window and, putting his hand over her mouth, took to her to his car, according to court documents on the Florida Su-

preme Court website.

He drove to an area near the Girard Street Canal on Merritt Island, where he raped her, fracturing her skull.

Jennings then took her into the canal and held her head under the water until she drowned, the court documents said.

At the time of the murder, Jennings was 20 years old and on leave from assignment in Okinawa with the United States Marine Corps. He’d been drinking the night of the killing, the court documents noted.

Following reversals of his 1980 and 1982 convictions, Jennings was again convicted of first-degree murder, kidnapping with intent to commit sexual battery, sexual battery, and burglary. He was sentenced to death for the first-degree murder and has been on death row for years.

*Includes reporting by News Service of Florida.*

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