



FIRST COAST COMMUNITY

Arlington
River City News

Thursday, June 30, 2005

HAZE / 75°

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Last modified Wed., June 29, 2005 - 12:33 AM
 Originally created Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Arlington school 'right on schedule'

\$21 million facility will replace the existing one

By **JOHN CARTER**
Staff writer



Phase One of the new Arlington Middle School is scheduled for completion by year's end.
 --John Carter/staff

cafeteria kitchen, has begun.

The new \$21 million school at 8141 Lone Star Road is being built on the same campus where the existing 44-year-old school stands. The school will have an administration complex, music suite, media center, reading room, cafetorium, gymnasium, TV production lab, 47 classrooms and a six-room exceptional student education wing.

Although construction began when the past school year was in session, Snyder said the project went smoothly and didn't interfere with day-to-day school operations.

"We just pretty much stayed out of their way with our trucks and equipment," he said. "There was a lot of good planning and coordination, and the school staff was very cooperative. We tried to do what we could not to interfere with their operations in any way."

He said Phase One of the project, which involves completion of the main school building, is scheduled to be done by the end of this year. Phase Two, which includes razing the old school and creating a sports complex on that site, is scheduled for completion next summer.

"When completed in July of 2006, this 18-acre campus will hallmark the revitalization of the Arlington neighborhood," said Bill Byrne, Ajax president.

A new 167,000-square-foot Arlington Middle School is taking shape and is "on schedule" on a campus beside the old middle school on Lone Star Road.

"Everything is right on schedule and right now we're under budget," said Duke Snyder, an assistant project manager for Ajax Building Corp., which is building the huge school.

All interior and exterior walls have been erected and work is under way on the roof. Some finishing work, including tiling the



William Mitchell of W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractors welds copper tubing inside the new Arlington Middle School.
 --John Carter/staff

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This is the third project Ajax has done for the Duval County School Board, having finished Oceanway Elementary School in December 2003 and renovating Stanton College Preparatory School in 2002.

Thomas Young, general director of facilities design and construction for the city's public schools, said Arlington Middle School will cost about \$6 million more than Oceanway Middle School. The Arlington school is bigger and will have an additional exceptional student education wing.

"This 18-acre campus will hallmark the revitalization of the Arlington neighborhood."

**Bill Byrne
President, Ajax
Building Corp.**

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