

# Point, Seaside Water Projects Not Affected By Budget Crunch

**BY TERRY POPE**  
Budget cuts will not affect Brunswick County's goal to provide county water to Shallotte Point residents by next year.

Phase III and III-A of the county's water distribution project will be fully funded despite cuts of an estimated \$7.5 million in 1991-92 budget requests.

The project will also route a main distribution line to the Seaside community to boost the volume of water available to southern Brunswick County developments.

County commissioners remain committed to the \$10 million expansion package, even in a lean budget year.

However, a \$1.36 million project to provide water lines to Sunset Harbor and down Mt. Pisgah Church Road has been placed in abeyance for possible 1992-93 two-thirds bond funding rather than through the county's general fund.

Engineers remain busy planning Phase III and III-A.

"We're about 23 to 25 percent complete with the project," said Jay

Houston of Houston and Associates in Shallotte. "It's still on schedule."

Houston said the capital improvements project will take care of Brunswick County's water needs for the next five or six years.

Phase III will provide a second distribution line to the Seaside community from Shallotte. A main line along N.C. 179 now feeds southern Brunswick County, but county officials are worried that the demand will exceed the supply during peak usage periods this summer.

Phase III consists of a 24-inch line to Grissetown along U.S. 17, a 3,400 gallons per minute pumping station south of Shallotte, a 16-inch line down N.C. 904 to Old Georgetown Road and a 12-inch line from there to Seaside.

It also includes a 20-inch line from Grissetown to Thomasboro, a 12-inch line down Thomasboro Road, a 12-inch line down N.C. 130 to West Brunswick High School and an eight-inch line down Union Primary School Road to the Old Shallotte Road.

The line will not travel the U.S. 17 Shallotte bypass as once plan-

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—Jay Houston,  
Consulting Engineer

ned, said Houston. Instead, the county has obtained an easement from Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. to use a powerline right of way through Shallotte.

"An act of Congress was the only way we could go to the bypass route," said Houston. "With it, we just saw months in trying to get that easement. It turns out that the cost standpoint will be better, too."

The county must buy land for a pumping station near the Shallotte Township District Park on U.S. 17. County Manager David Clegg said he has been asked why the county can't build at the park.

"We would risk having to pay back the federal grant used to build the park if we use that land for a

pumping station," said Clegg. "It very specifically states that every single inch must be used as a park."

The county hopes to bid the entire project by the fall.

The four-laning of U.S. 17 south of Shallotte to the South Carolina line presents an interesting problem. The N.C. Department of Transportation, Brunswick Electric, Atlantic Telephone and county water department will all be at work along the busy highway.

"It'll look like one giant anthill for a few months," Houston said.

Phase III-A to Shallotte Point consists mostly of six-inch lines along 10.7 miles of state roads, including Copas Road, Todd Road, Pigott Road, Shallotte Point Loop

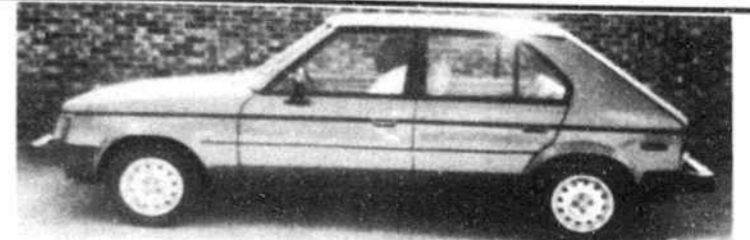
Road and Bay Road.

A 300,000-gallon elevated water tank must also be built on Village Point Road, said Houston.

The community will become a Special Assessment District (SAD) once the main lines are in. That will extend lines into individual developments and neighborhoods.

Shallotte Point resident Scott Taylor, of Gurganus Road, asked commissioners last week to make his street part of the capital improvements project. He said approximately 10 percent of Shallotte Point residents live on Gurganus Road.

However, commissioners did not change plans to include the road.



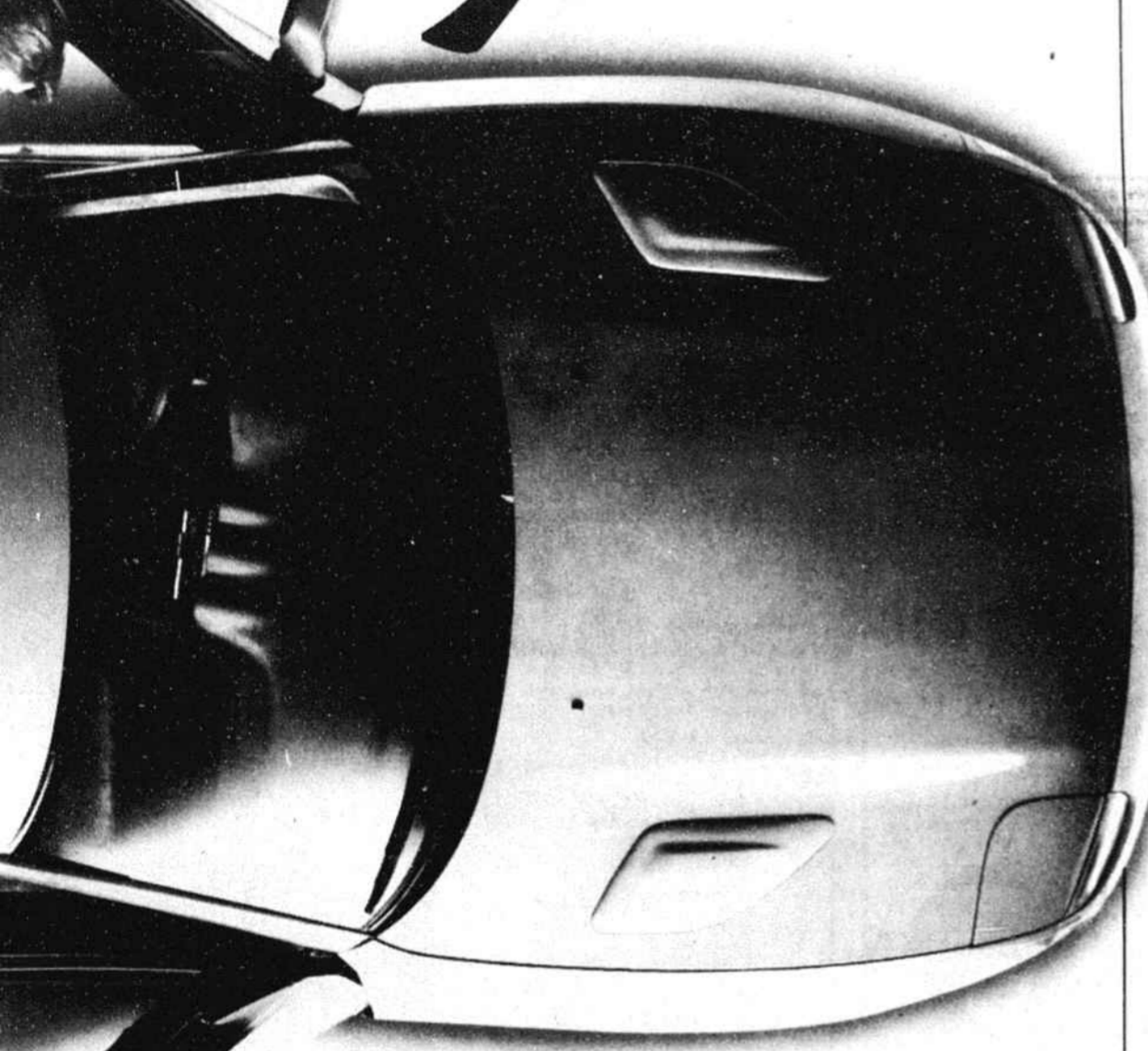
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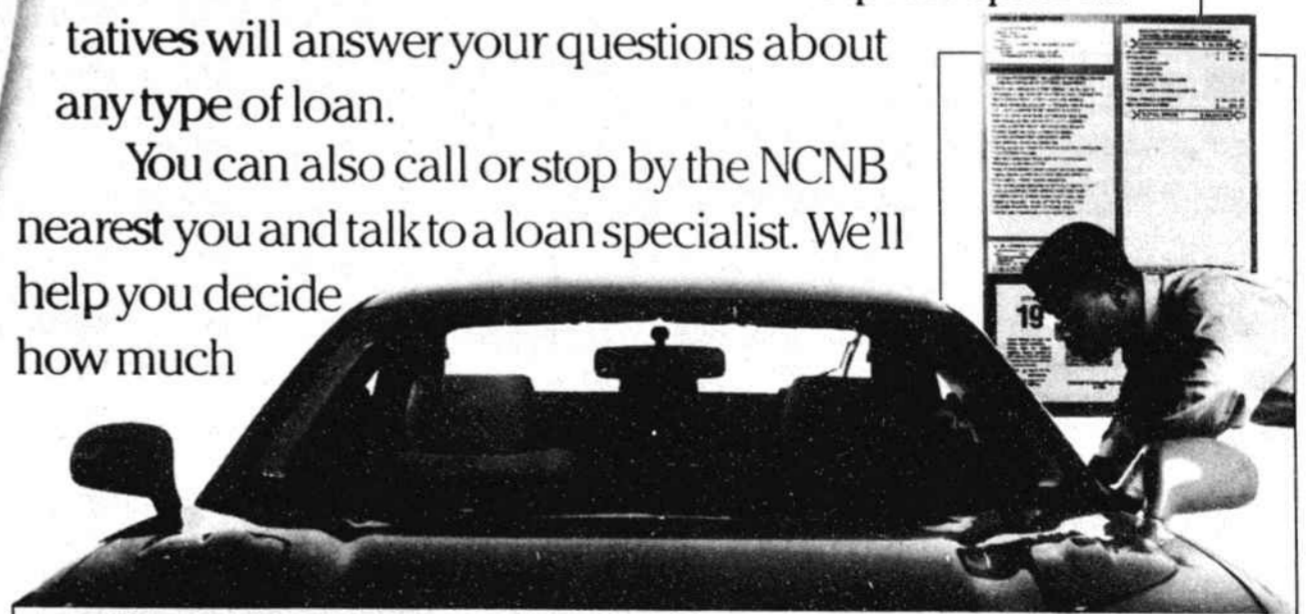
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