GATX pushes capital into Greensboro's Harbor Club

GREENSBORO, Ga. — Harbor Club, a private golf and equestrian country club on Lake Oconee, has entered into an investment agreement with GATX Capital Corp., which will provide financial support for completion of the development and beyond.

GATX is involved as a lender in more than 30 golf courses in the United States. Harbor Club and the Marsh Landing golf course community in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., are the only two private home communities.

Harbor Club has been nominated as "Best New Private Golf Course for 1991" by Golf Digest. Harbor Club's launch April 6-7 was both auspicious and disastrous. The inaugural Mickey Mantle Celebrity Invitational Golf Tournament was a smash hit. The former New York Yankees slugger cavorted with former teammates Yogi Berra and other sports luminaries.

The next day was reserved for tennis. There was, however, no rallying cry of "Tennis, Anyone?" Instead, more than 1,000 guests were evacuated and the event canceled because of a chemical plant fire a few miles away.

Dearborn council OK's $3.9M in bonds for betterments to muni course

DEARBORN, Mich. — The City Council has approved issuance of $3.9 million in bonds to improve Robert Herndon Dearborn Hills Golf Course. The action will expand and improve the course that the widow of local realtor Robert Herndon donated to the city in 1987.

Cost of the expansion and renovation is expected to be about $4.45 million.

The course will be closed for part of this season for construction. In 1992 and 1993, play will be limited to permit the grass to grow.

Town may take troubled project under its wing

BLUE ISLAND, Ill. — City officials are weighing taking over financing and construction of a public golf course on Blue Island's northwest end.

Private developer Art Daniels, president of John Sexton Contractors of Hillside, is having difficulty securing financing for the course, so is asking the city to consider taking over the development and running the course.

Mayor Donald Peloquin noted that municipalities and park districts have a better chance of securing financing at lower interest rates than do private developers.

The golf course is slated to be built as part of a residential development on a 174-acre parcel on the site of the closed Sexton landfill.

Columbus Zoo investigates Safari GC redesign

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Columbus Zoo is weighing the feasibility of redesigning Safari Golf Club to its south.

Zoo trustees who serve on the association board's golf committee have received routing and budget proposals from Hurdzan Design Group of Columbus, and plan shortly to make a recommendation to the entire board.

Proposals include opening up the 120-acre course by 20 acres, re-routing about 12 of the 18 holes, and making it a more strategic challenge.

There are warning sounds by some not charmed by what might become a "walk with the animals, talk with the animals" nature romp.

Blaine Sickles, golf committee chairman, strikes a cautionary note in what could be termed "monkeying around."

Sickles said flying balls could endanger the animals, and they could be agitated by the sight of humans on their turf.

He added that the cost of building new facilities on the course to contain the animals "would be something awful."