

Hearing on apartments at Inkster-11 Wednesday

By Jackie Klein
staff writer

Southfield and Farmington Hills homeowners are expected to turn out in record numbers Wednesday night for an often delayed public hearing on rezoning a 50-acre tract of land for apartments.

At issue is the single-family residential property, owned by the Southfield School Board, on the east side of Inkster Road south of 11 Mile.

The Southfield Planning Commission at the 7 p.m. Wednesday meeting in the Civic Center Municipal Building, on the east side of Evergreen between 10 and 11 Mile roads, will make a recommendation on Occidental Development's bid to rezone the 50 acres for a two-story apartment complex.

This plan was scaled down from the original three-story version, vehemently opposed by neighboring residents and rejected by the city council in April 1987.

The school board, which was offered \$2.5 million for the property contingent on rezoning, has threatened to join Occidental in a lawsuit if the second request is turned down.

THE PLANNING commission over the past several months has delayed action on the rezoning either at the request of the school board attorney or city engineers. The land lacks a sanitary sewer and area residents fear their septic tanks would be unable to bear the added burden of a large development.

According to John Perkowski, assistant city planner, on hand Wednesday will be attorneys, engineers and planning consultants from McKenna and Associates.

"We're still putting our thoughts together," Perkowski said. "We'll have to wait until Wednesday night to see if the planning commission and the planning staff recommend approval or denial of the rezoning request to the city council."

Visiting Irish student has easy time fitting in

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'You can walk in Belfast at night and not be bothered at all.'

— Janet Bolton

"They said that doesn't mean that we don't have to do any work. We still have to respect the teachers. They said that the classes are a lot freer and there is a lot more discussion in class."

"Another thing they warned me about was drugs. Whereas in Britain, the teachers would take all the guys out for a beer after they played soccer, in America, that is really looked down upon."

The Bolton and Gunderson families are similar. Derek Bolton is a general physician; his wife,

Doreen, is a former nurse who does volunteer work. Janet's brothers are Rob, 23, Phil, 20, and Simon, 14.

The Gundersons include Charles, a Chrysler Corp. engineer; Elaine, also a former nurse who now does volunteer work; and children Kristin Bowen, 28, Carl, 26, David, 28, Karl, 18, and Susan, 16.

Both families are Presbyterian.

JANET BOLTON plans to study law at Cambridge University in England this fall.

She lives in Belmont, a small residential area in northern Belfast, which, she said, is much like Farmington Hills. Belmont, she said, is devoid of the often-publicized violence in Northern Ireland.

That violence has existed for 19 years — as long as Bolton is old.

"All I would really like to say is that I try to stay out of it as much

as possible," she said. "It is so divided on both sides that I can't see how it is ever going to be resolved."

"An awful lot of people wish that it would be resolved, wish it would just go away and everyone would live peacefully. But it doesn't seem that easy. As for me, I try not to have any biases. You're really not affected by it. I haven't seen anything. I haven't seen any shootings or anything like that. It's very peaceful."

"It's like Detroit. Everyone thinks Detroit is such a bad place. You can walk in Belfast at night and not be bothered at all."

Bolton said that many young people are fed up with the internal strife, though.

What will Bolton miss most when she leaves Michigan in June? Blueberry muffins.

"We don't have them back home," she said.

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