

METRO

In Brief

Wednesday, January 23, 2002; Page B03

THE REGION

Zimmerman Chosen to Head Metro Board

Chris Zimmerman, 42, is the new chairman of the Metro board of directors. The economist was elected to the one-year term by a unanimous vote of the board Thursday. He succeeds Decatur W. Trotter, who continues to serve on the board as a Maryland representative.

Zimmerman, a Democrat who also chairs the Arlington County Board, has represented Arlington on the Metro board since 1998. He has pushed for the replacement of diesel buses with ones powered by natural gas, advocated for high-tech transit improvements and opposed renaming the National Airport Metro station after President Ronald Reagan.

MARYLAND

Juvenile Justice Chief Taken to Hospital

Maryland's secretary of juvenile justice left an Annapolis hearing by ambulance yesterday after complaining that he was short of breath.

Bishop L. Robinson, 75, is undergoing what a spokesman described as precautionary tests at Anne Arundel Medical Center.

Robinson spent several hours yesterday afternoon testifying in front of the House Judiciary Committee before taking ill. He had been "batting some kind of bug" for the past few days, said Department of Juvenile Justice spokesman Lee Towers. "He's sitting up laughing and carrying on now," Towers said.

Pr. George's School Vote May Be Delayed

Prince George's County school board member Felicia R. Lasley (District Heights) said she plans to make a motion to table a controversial plan that would move students out of a county elementary school and convert the facility to a magnet school.

Lasley said Superintendent Iris T. Metts, who first recommended the boundary change for Edgar Allan Poe Elementary School in Suitland, has agreed to go along with the plan to delay the vote. Parents had opposed her proposal because they wanted their children to remain in their neighborhood school.

The board is to vote tomorrow on Metts's proposal to change the boundaries of 63 elementary and middle schools.

Under the plan, students at Edgar Allan Poe would move to Shadyside Elementary School, also in Suitland, until a new school is built for them. That school would open in 2003. Taking their place at Poe would be students in the French immersion program.

Death Probed at Assisted-Living Facility

A woman in an assisted-living facility for mentally retarded adults in Burtonsville died Monday night after she was discovered unresponsive in a bathtub, and state officials and police are looking into the death.

Mary Allen, 52, was found after police were dispatched to the 3000 block of Greencastle Road about 9:45 p.m. for a report of a possible drowning, authorities said. Police said the death did not appear suspicious.

A caretaker was in the bathroom but was tending to another resident when the incident occurred, said Officer Derek Baliles, a police spokesman. The Christian Assisted Living Facility for Mentally Retarded Adults is regulated by the state.