

Van Grack may be challenge to Morella

Steven Van Grack has set out to do what most would agree is the impossible — win Connie Morella's seat in Congress.

Morella, the Republican congresswoman who for eight years has represented the huge chunk of Montgomery County that is District 8, is undeniably one of the most popular politicians in Montgomery history.

So popular is she that Democrats, long the heavyweights of Montgomery politics, perpetually have problems finding a candidate to step into the chute for the District 8 congressional race.

Van Grack formally entered the race Tuesday.

The Democrat's difficulty is a rare irony in the county where the Republicans are

News Analysis

by Joy Nurmi

usually the ones desperately searching for viable candidates to run against shock-in Democrats.

Simply put, the District 8 race has been an embarrassment for Democrats, says Blair Lee, local political columnist and public affairs talk show host. But Van Grack's entry may change that.

Now, many political pundits agree, the first serious challenger since Silver Spring state Del. Peter Franchot ran against (Please see MORELLA, A-14)