

# Former mayor of Rockville explores congressional race

by Popsy Kanagaratnam  
Staff Writer

Rockville attorney and former mayor Steve Van Grack is thinking about entering the race for U.S. Congress.

"Talks are in the air," Van Grack confirmed yesterday.

"People have come to me," said Van Grack, 45.

He has spoken to U.S. Sen. Paul Sarbanes and to the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee.

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Steve Van Grack,  
former Rockville mayor

"I've always been politically interested," Van Grack said. He said he had not planned to run until his children were in college. "The most difficult part about being a candidate and holding office is the time away from the family," Van Grack was Rockville mayor from 1985 to 1987.

"It's a race for the Democratic nomination, not against anyone," he said. "This may be an opportunity."

If he runs and win the Democratic nomination, Van Grack is likely to face incumbent Rep. Connie Morella (R-8), who is run-



Steve Van Grack

ning unopposed by anyone in her party. She is serving her fourth term in the House of Representatives.

He said his priorities are reforming campaign finance and restoring integrity to political office. Van Grack, a lawyer, also is concerned about reforming the criminal justice system.

Van Grack is a partner in the law firm Van Grack, Axelson, Williamowsky and Jacobs.

As mayor, Van Grack drew criticism when Rockville was the first city to publish the Surgeon General's report on AIDS in English and Spanish and distribute it to every household. "I was accused of pornography," he said.

Van Grack, who grew up in Chevy Chase, and his wife Susan live in Rockville. They have four children, Adam, 17, Ryan, 14, Brandon, 14 and Alison, 11.