

A free press ensures a free society

Founded in 1985 • Our 24th Year



Napa Sentinel

TM • CA Trademark No. 100658

P.O. BOX 2399, Napa, CA 94558

320-7362 - e-MAIL sentinel@napanet.net

NEW TOLL FREE FAX (866) 424-3978

**FRIDAY,
JULY 23, 2010
VOL. 26,
ISSUE 1471**

Mayorial Candidate Robert Stryk

**THE CANDIDATE THEY
CAN'T GET RID OF**

By Harry V. Martin

Exorcism is a rite used by the Church to rid evil spirits from a person or a location. But in politics it

is used to attempt to rid a candidate who is running against the political establishment. The Church rite rids evil; the political rite attempts to rid the good character of an opposition candidate.



Thirty-four year old Robert Stryk has been and continues to be the target of the well entrenched political powers to run the Town of Yountville with complete control. Stryk is a fighter with an extremely impressive background – he doesn't take prisoners.

Stryk is running for Mayor of Yountville and he has been harassed by some big business owners - who have it all their way under the current Town Council - the local newspaper, the Yountville Sun, and politicians that perhaps don't want Stryk as the mayor fearing what he could uncover about some shady political deals from the Town Hall.

Actually Stryk carries some very impressive credentials:

- * Chairman at Stryk Vineyards.
- * Chairman at SPG Companies.

- * Past Senior Political Account Executive at DCI.
- * Staff member to Rep. Jim Kolbe at US Congress.
- * Staff member to Rep. J.D. Hayworth at US Congress.
- * Worked with both Senators Bob Dole and John McCain.

Stryk was a heavy target of the Yountville Sun which has attacked him constantly until he visited the Sun's office and told the publisher that she was operating the newspaper illegally. Apparently the Sun's corporate name was suspended since 2007 for non-payment of taxes. The publisher of the Sun, a reporter for the Napa Valley Register and several politicians and big business in Yountville had a secret meeting at a Yountville hotel to compose a strategy on how to get rid of Stryk.

Just recently Stryk turned in his nomination papers to the Town Clerk – an avowed friend of Stryk's opponent for Mayor John F. Dunbar. The Napa County Elections Office counts the signatures for accuracy and then certifies the candidacy. The Elections Department rejected virtually all the signatures because the 27 people from the Veterans' Home did not put down their city and zip code. Stryk lodged a protest with County Registrar of Voters, John Tuteur. After Tuteur reviewed the issue and listened to Stryk quote the law, the Elections Department certified the signatures and sent a letter to the Town Clerk of Yountville stating as much. But he did state that Yountville had the final decision. The Town Clerk rejected the Stryk petition and he went out and had a new petition signed that included the city and zip code. The Town Clerk sent the petition to the Town's

(continued on page 7)

By Harry V. Martin

The Napa City Council has again approved an assessment against its own property for the Downtown Merchants to promote downtown. The buildings that you – the taxpayer will be paying for in essence – include City Hall, Fire Stations, Police Department building, various buildings housing the Water Department, Housing, etc., and the Senior Center.

The money will come directly out of City funds – funds the taxpayers supply in the form of assessments and taxes. The concept of the assessment was proposed over four years ago and suggested it would only last for about three years. The three years have lapsed and the City is giving more money to Downtown Napa using funds taxpayers had to pay.

Yet over a five year period 66 businesses in Downtown Napa have closed – some relocating in the area – but the majority closing for good. If redevelopment is so good for Downtown and the assessment district is so good – where is the progress?

On page 7 of this week's Sentinel is a list of closed businesses in the Downtown area and the reasons for their respective closures. Redevelopment touts the increased value of Downtown property but in perspective a house in Napa in 1971 when redevelopment commenced construction cost \$18,000 – several years ago the same house sold for \$395,000 without the aid of redevelopment.

Now, of course redevelopment has been extended for another 10 years – making it a 50 year project and the City now has a new redevelopment project along Soscol Avenue. Review the list of business closures on page 7 to see the amount of progress made – or not made.

**SAVE THE
NAPA
SENTINEL
SEND
DONATIONS TO
PO BOX 2399
NAPA, CA 94558**