



editorial



amerisurv.com

December 2016 / Vol. 13 No. 11
© Cheves Media LLC

PUBLISHER Allen E. Cheves
allen.cheves@chevesmedia.com

EDITOR Marc S. Cheves, PS
marc.cheves@chevesmedia.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Joel Leininger, PS
ASSISTANT EDITOR Jacalyn Cheves

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Shawn Billings, PS | Wendy Lathrop, PS |
| C. Barton Crattie, PS | John Matonich, PS |
| James J. Demma, PS, Esq. | Michael J. Pallamary, PS |
| Dr. Richard L. Elgin, PS, PE | Jerry Penry, PS |
| Chad Erickson, PS | Walt Robillard, Esq., PS |
| Linda Erickson | Fred Roeder, PS |
| Jason E. Foose, PS | Angus W. Stocking, PS |
| Gary Kent, PS | |

The staff and contributing writers may be reached via the online Message Center at amerisurv.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN LTD Creative, LLC
WEBMASTER Joel Cheves

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR Becky Sadler
AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT Edward Duff
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Richard Bremer

The American Surveyor (ISSN 1548-2669) is published monthly by Cheves Media LLC. Editorial mailing address: 905 W. 7th St., #331, Frederick, MD 21701. Tel: (301) 620-0784.

The American Surveyor is a publication of Cheves Media LLC, 905 W. 7th St., #331, Frederick, MD. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the express written permission of the publisher. Opinions and statements made by the writers and contributors do not necessarily express the views of Cheves Media LLC.

Subscriptions prices in the U.S.: Free for qualified professionals. Canada: 1 year \$56.00 US; international subscriptions \$72.00 per year (Airmail), U.S. funds prepaid. Back issues (subject to sufficient stock) are available for \$4.95 + S/H.

New subscription inquiries and all other address changes should be sent to *The American Surveyor*, P.O. Box 4162, Frederick, MD 21705-4162. Fax: 301-695-1538. Subscribe online @ www.amerisurv.com



Please, Not Another Boom

Excitement is growing for the new year. Regardless of where you stand politically, there is new-found hope that progress with much needed infrastructure spending and the expansion of small business-friendly policies in Washington will support renewed vitality in the land surveying sector. These issues effect the lion's share of our readership.

Some will call it pent-up demand, but I see it as a natural return to what made our country great: jobs. And while I have no evidence to back it up, one industry acquaintance told me he'd heard that an additional 30 percent of small businesses would have gone under if we had continued with the current administration's policies.

Some are saying that surveying is dead. For sure, I think this is nonsense. Even if technology has reduced the number of surveyors needed, and opened up work that always required a surveyor to non-surveyors, the fact remains that if something is being built, a surveyor is generally required. If we have a decent construction economy, I firmly believe there will be a demand for surveyors.

Which brings me to the title of my editorial. Even though capitalism is not perfect, and greed has always been a large component, the fact is that it raises the boat for the greatest number of people by creating jobs. If you look at countries around the world who suffer from 50 percent unemployment, it's easy to see that when people are working, they have less time to sit around and foment. Plus, it's helpful for the human spirit.

Many years ago, a magazine I worked for was struggling to keep pace with the growth the owners had grown accustomed to. Corporate sent in a manager who threatened "unfortunate consequences" in the event our stellar results didn't continue. Little did he understand that in the land of opportunity, the last thing they would see would be our backs as we walked out the door.

After our meeting we drove the manager to the airport, and the subject of business creation came up. He lectured us and said he thought it was maniacal that, in America, a business could be created in one week, but in the Netherlands it took one year. When I asked why, he replied that the failure of a business is "socially disruptive" and the government wanted to avoid that. Obviously, I disagreed. In my opinion, what is socially disruptive is a lack of jobs. Human beings naturally want to work, and the goal of capitalism is to provide an economy in which they *can* work.

Not germane to this discussion is something else the manager lectured us about: he had spent time in Venezuela and I complained about the fact that central to the economies of so many countries is the need to bribe to get anything done. He informed me that I was wrong and that I needed to acknowledge the "cultural differences" of the people in these countries. I let him know that corruption is just plain wrong, regardless of where it occurs.

Having personally been the victim of the greedy boom and bust cycle, I have always wondered why we can't have 3-4 percent growth instead of 5-6 percent growth (with its resultant bust). Some refer to this as Smart Growth. My sincere hope for the new administration is that it creates the conditions that will allow our economy to grow, but not in such a way as to be socially disruptive when businesses have to contract or disappear and people are laid off due to the inevitable bust. ■