

the right focus

A T L A N T A ★ F E B N E W S



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From The Chairperson...



Paul Barnes, Chairperson
FEB Atlanta

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Another very exciting event we planned in honor of the dedicated employees who work in the federal sector is to recognize the winner of the FEB's "Working for America" essay contest. Over 60 employees answered the call to share in 100 words or less what it meant to "Work for America".

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) has been celebrated the first Monday through Sunday in May since 1985. It is a time set aside each year to honor the men and women who serve America as federal, state, and local government employees. This year's dates are May 3-9, 2004. At the federal level, the Atlanta Federal Executive Board's annual Employee of the Year Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, May 7. Another very exciting event we planned in honor of the dedicated employees who work in the federal sector is to recognize the winner of the FEB's "Working for America" essay contest. Over 60 employees answered the call to share in 100 words or less what it meant to "Work for America".

It has been extremely gratifying to read the sentiments expressed by employees at all levels of government. They told us over and over how stimulating and personally satisfying it is to have jobs where you truly make a difference. We heard from employees at all grade levels, different lengths of service- from an intern to those who had 39 plus years of working for America. Some could express their thoughts in 100 words or fewer; other wrote to tell us that they need far more space. One person decided that he would just have to write a book to talk about the rewards of his career. We even heard from people outside of our FEB area- from Tennessee and Florida. One person was inspired to write a poem. One person began her career at 14 as a summer hire; other came into government service after serving in the military; other had other jobs first.

Some were second-generation feds. One person wrote to thank the FEB for giving employees an opportunity to say how they feel about their employer. Several even expressed thanks for their careers.

Over and over people shared their soul. They confirmed that we truly are the heartbeat of America; we touch lives in the good times and in the bad. We have direct contact and we work behind the scenes in numerous ways that the public will never know yet we make their day-to-day lives possible.

This newsletter is dedicated to the 45,000 plus employees who make up the Atlanta metropolitan area federal and postal community. Please read it and share it with others. It expresses the sentiments of your fellow employees. □

table of contents

FEB'S ESSAY CONTEST
TOP TEN "WORKING FOR AMERICA" 2-7
UPCOMING EVENTS 8

FEB's "Working for America"

The following are the essays judged to be the top ten:

"America works because her citizens treasure freedom. America works because individuals make great sacrifices to protect her. America works because we are a grand melting pot of ideas, cultures, and beliefs. America works because people are willing to dedicate their lives to public service

To me, public service means being a part of the heartbeat of America. It means keeping America running and touching the lives of every citizen. Every day at work, I am secure in the knowledge that my efforts matter- that I am part of the very fabric of America. Working for America makes America work."

- Lisa McCoy, GSA

"The greatness of our country is synonymous with my feelings of satisfaction and pride for being one tiny

link in a strong and vibrant circle of thousands of keepers and workers for present and future Americans. As a public servant I am energized and committed to assist in every aspect of the lives of those we serve. I am proud to be part of the team that maintain, expand and secure the many freedoms that we enjoy. The continuous challenges, changes, successes and uncertainties keep my job interesting. Pleasure is experiencing the unique opportunities of a public servant."

- Mary Lucas, IRS

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"The truth of the matter is, as my sense of self has evolved, so has the value I place upon my career in federal service. Financial compensation doesn't equal the pride I feel in contributing to the mission of my agency..."

"The question, "What does a career in public service mean to me?" is thought provoking. If I were to say that a career in public service satisfied a life-long aspiration, this essay would be fiction. The truth of the matter is, as my sense of self has evolved, so has the value I place upon my career in federal service. Financial compensation doesn't equal the pride I feel in contributing to the mission of my agency. Every task completed is like adding a square to a beautiful quilt. How? Why? Because I serve those who serve others and in doing so, I enrich myself."

- Henry Hunter, CDC

"To me a career in public service means having the opportunity to help make people's lives a little better. My job is to acquire excess equipment from the military or civilian government agencies and loan it to the states to use in their firefighting program. Many states would not have enough equipment to have fire protection in all areas if it were not for our federal excess property program, and I am proud that I can be a part of this effort. Helping people is what public service is all about."

- Carole M. Patton, USDA, Forest Service

"In the early morning hours, as I lay in the cold damp grass doing sit ups and I look out at the dark profiles of the soldiers running by in formation, I ponder my choice of serving my country. There is no glamour, no six-figure salary, no corporate lunches, and no stock options. Yet, I serve because of honor, pride, and a sense of belonging to a greater good than simply a higher profit margin."

- Major Eva Clements, Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, Ft. Benning

"From Tuberculosis to Diabetes, from program planning to program implementation, from country to country. Public health for me encompasses all of these things. My love of people and places began years ago with my first outreach visit to a patient's house to deliver her Tuberculosis medication. A cockroach was crawling up the wall behind her and the windows were shattered. In spite of these conditions, she offered me a cup of tea. Public health service in America has been about letting people know they matter, locally and globally."

- Parul D. Nanavati, CDC

Please continue on next page.



Please contact us with any questions/comments you may have. If you would like to submit an article, please do so by the 15th of the month.

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and published by Pat Brown, DAPS

Essay Contest!!!

“Twenty-two years ago I thought I’d work for SSA for a few years, move to private industry and make my fortune. I’m still at SSA and making my fortune. You see money is not the sole basis of a fortune. My fortune/fulfillment comes from providing service to those in need.

Working for SSA teaches you to appreciate those we serve. They include: millionaires, the working poor and even the homeless. Their expectations vary; many expect little, some the world. I do my best to meet each expectation, as this service is called doing the job I am paid to do.”

- *Olivia Rencher, SSA*

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“...Each day when I put on my tie and step out the door, I am the face of the public servant. I represent integrity, loyalty, and service to the citizen and taxpayer.”

“I am ‘working for America’. Each day when I put on my tie and step out the door, I am the face of the public servant. I represent integrity, loyalty, and service to the citizen and taxpayer. And as an employee of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, I am the citizen's advocate for ensuring public health and safety. I am one servant, among many, doing my small part, to meet the challenge of making government work for the people. I am honored to be of service in the public workforce, ‘Working for America’”.

- *Steven Rudisail, NRC*

“A career in public service means fulfilling the motto that I grew up hearing my grandmother say which was, “contribute to society and become a productive citizen”. I am new to the government as this is my second year at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I have had the opportunity to work with a range of programs in chronic disease and violence prevention. A career in public service allows me to create a bridge between government and citizens. It means making government accessible to communities and increasing our presence as a resource, friend, and advocate for the public.”

- *Julia Mitchell, CDC*

“Imagine if everyday you could help another countryman become stronger... healthier...happier. Imagine if everyday your highest priority was to improve a country and its people. Imagine if everyday you were able to give a sense of hope and security to the brethren of a nation. Imagine if everyday you were selected to be an integral part of the inner workings of a world power. Imagine if everyday you could do all of this... and be paid for your service. I am so blessed that I do not have to imagine.. I am working for America...everyday.”

- *Rich Redecker, SSA*

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“...Imagine if everyday you were able to give a sense of hope and security to the brethren of a nation.”

Following are excerpts from some of the many essays we received:

“I am blest by working for my country. Having traveled to foreign lands I have seen how special America is.”

- *Martha S. Carter, GSA*

“Through political change, new policies, reorganizations, downsizing and competitive outsourcing no matter what, we are the back bone that holds this nation together.

To hear ‘The National Anthem’ or ‘God Bless the USA’ and see ‘Old Glory’ rising with proud hearts we say, ‘We’re Americans, the common person, a civil servant working for America and “Made in the USA”’.

- *Edward C. Moon, IRS*

“I started working for America in 1987 when I was 14, a summer-hire in Germany, made \$2.90 an hour. You couldn’t tell me anything, I had it going on. Now I work for SSA where I got to work with people who are seeking disability. Some days are sad, knowing that you can’t help someone and then there are days when people you’ve helped get their disability and they come visit you to say, Thanks!”

- *Latavia R. Morgan, SSA*

“They are government employees with ups and downs, struggling while earning their living. While I help them, I get to peek at little chapters of their daily dramas, and all of it, while I am comfortably sitting in my chair. Then again, these are lots of other AMC/s discoveries. My bosses manage to make us feel like family! Like if God have finally blessed me with an admirable team to work with and respectable force to work for.”

- *Martiza Ortiz-Boriero, AMC-GSA Fleet, Ft. Gillem*

“I take pride in knowing I’m serving the needs of my America and fellow citizens. I’m not referring to pride as boastful, but rather as conscientiously performing work that adds value to our mission.”

- *Gary Isbell, FAA*

Please continue on next page.



FEB's "Working for America"

"I live in a world full of wonders, why's and how's, but I work in a place that has almost all the answers. I work in a place where gentle rays of hope are passed along the way to help save people throughout the world. Working in an organization like CDC has been and will always be a constant learning opportunity and a rewarding experience. I'm honored and blessed to work within such a life-changing and world-saving organization."

- Judith Allen, CDC

"Public Sector Civil Service is a whole world you never dreamed existed. It's a far cry from suits, dusty offices and in-trays piled with paper. It's a world you'll want to join. It's vital work and today's civil servant deals with the most important issues of the day. Joining the Public Sector Civil Service means applying your brainpower to the issues that impact on every aspect of life in the nation and beyond: healthcare, education, democracy, unemployment, pensions, food safety, transport, etc. It's the kind of life you won't find in any private company."

- Debbie George, CDC

"My concern for homeless families, deprived of decent housing encouraged me to establish a career as a public servant in the ghettos of New York City. These upheavals of hell assisted me in developing a vision to focus on the elements creating the problems. Utilizing my architectural and urban planning abilities. I managed to convince bureaucrats that "Urban Renewal" divided neighborhoods and caused deprivation. Urging them to rehabilitate existing structures with amenities, my goal was to initiate major planning, execution, and overall change control."

- Gerardo, Aristud, GSA-Tampa.

"As a child, I remember my mom photographing our home with rotting walls where lead and mold were real threats. I had no concept of public health, but knew that people shouldn't have to live under those conditions. Nothing came of the photographs my mom sent to the housing agency, but I decided I wanted to do something to help families that were forced to live in conditions that posed potential health threats. At CDC, I have participated in studies

involving exposure to tobacco smoke. For me, a public service career means identifying health concerns that affect all people."

- Tia Harmon, CDC

"It took a Depression for the federal workforce to really grown. Think about the CCC and TVA. These programs started a massive effort to get Americans back to work. The issue was to find a way for our people to help feed and cloth their families.

Seven decades later we are a people that have a spirit that brings together every race, gender, and religious background. Because of our spirit and heritage of 'serving the people' we are better servants to the people."

- Rick Jaeger, CDC

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"A career in public service means that an individual has put into action a sincere desire to create a better America and is using personal knowledge, skills, and abilities to accomplish that."

"A career in public service means that an individual has put into action a sincere desire to create a better America and is using personal knowledge, skills, and abilities to accomplish that. Dedication to providing service to the country is an honor and a privilege taken to heart. The gains are enjoyed by all Americans who benefit directly and indirectly. Overall the world is a better place because of the contributions of career public servants."

- Connie Nevels, CDC

"As we fulfill our tasks, we do so with the entrustment of the American people. Although acknowledgements of appreciation may seem limited... from laymen to dignitaries, we represent them all. Therefore, within the public service arena, it is essential that we strive to deliver a high quality work product and value one another internally."

- Pamela Bronaugh, IRS

"I attempt to begin each day mindful of purpose and service. To me a career in the public sector means giving what you can today to make your office, agency, and department better tomorrow. Leaving a record of excellence, not simply marking time as the days roll by, but achieving results and building upon the success of one's predecessors."

- Danny Pino, USDA- AMS Poultry Programs Market News

"Every day I feel challenged to use my talents and energy to achieve. The principles that drive my work place are America's values. Everyone is entitled to due process, fair treatment, and equal access. Innovative ideas are welcome. Honesty is valued. Corporate greed is not."

- Sarah Peterson, IRS

"I can count tons of adulterated foods and pharmaceuticals I've removed from the marketplace; injuries, illnesses and deaths that I've prevented. It's incredibly exciting, rewarding work."

- Clifford Purdy, CDC

"I find the Federal Government to be the best organization in the world. It offers training, self-development, opportunities abroad, great benefits and the overall feeling of self-worth and accomplishment. The vision, mission, and goals of the Federal Government make it an exciting atmosphere of camaraderie, respect and well-being."

- Renee Harmon, GSA

Please continue on next page.



Essay Contest!!!

"It is with pride and privilege that I work for the Federal Government. When citizens all over the country are unemployed and others are facing layoffs, bankruptcies and age/race discrimination, I am secure knowing that working for America is a safe, reward, fun and secure work environment."

- Mary Ann Rowan, CDC

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“My job makes me aware of the people in this nation who relied on my knowledge and skill to assist them with their benefits and living the life of an American.”

"My job makes me aware of the people in this nation who relied on my knowledge and skill to assist them with their benefits and living the life of an American. I use my ability to translate and assist Filipino Americans with problems that they could not communicate any other way, which reinforced by resolve to finally acknowledge my cultural roots. Providing service to the strong diversity of this nation makes me proud to be someone working for America."

- Marie Salcedo, SSA

"One night on call for CDC we were notified of a Marine returning home from the Middle East with a diffuse rash. Concerned about smallpox bioterrorism, officials had gathered contact information for over 400 civilians who had flown with him. Upon review, we, and the Department of Defense agreed this was a typical smallpox vaccine rash, not smallpox disease. To prevent widespread panic, we quickly informed officials that the soldier posed no transmission risk. He would recover shortly. They didn't need to contact other passengers. Then we went home. Sometimes the best successes are the ones you never hear about."

- Scott Santibanez, CDC

"I chose a career in public service because I wanted to work for the largest company in the world. I wanted to serve and make a difference in how we served the American people regardless of how large or small that contribution might be. I owe a great debt of gratitude to the American people for allowing me 38 years of service to them."

- Stan Wayland, FAA

"I was the first to graduate college in my family. Whether in the military during the Viet Nam War or in collections during this time of economic challenges, working for America has given me the opportunity to give back, to prove myself and to maintain the respect of my family and friends."

- Melvin Allen Tukes, IRS

"Working for America is an opportunity for me to:

Serve my country and fellow Americans every day;

Lift up the values of our great land;

Support and love the nation I call home;

Play a role in preserving our country's freedom;

Stand up for the liberties we enjoy as a country;

Understand the true value of life, liberty, freedom and the pursuit of happiness each and every day.

Remember the many American men and women who have given their lives for our freedom;

Realize that the strength, quality and value of our country are woven together by the language of diversity among all of our citizens.

- Wayne Stephens, CDC

"As I realize my blessings, I pray that my children will choose to work in a profession which provides public service to others. Thanks to all of those who have made the choice!

- Stephen Skowronski, CDC

"Working for the Social Security Administration has given me the opportunity to make a difference in people lives. In our daily struggles and tribulations we sometimes forget the important things. I get a daily reminder, I work for the government and I am here to help!"

- Francisco Viera, SSA

"A career in Public Service means that we care about people, our community, and well-being."

- Tonya Wilcoxson, IRS

"When I began working for the Federal government at 17 and 'fresh out of high school' I was looking for only one thing- getting paid on a regular basis. I've found that service to the public, be it behind the scenes doing paperwork, or out meeting and greeting the public is what I was destined to do. I'm proud to have served the public for over 30 years."

- Terrie Wnuk, CDC

"To be effective, we must learn to navigate the obstacles with our programs for those whom our programs are striving to reach. The intrinsic rewards are in reaching underserved people with effective programs that meet their needs."

- Aaron Zee, CDC

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“Yes, I'm working for America... 'cause America works for me! ”

"Working for America gives me a patriotic satisfaction of giving back to my country. It allows me to have a personal contribution in improving our Homeland. Yes, I'm working for America... 'cause America works for me!"

- Toreanna K. Muwwakkil, IRS

Please continue on next page.



FEB's "Working for America"

"America is, the historic struggles of a nation and its people, trying to do what is best for all of its citizens with the courage to speak up for human rights. We are a strong people with the willingness to take chances even if we do not have all of the answers and, when we are exhausted- we stand up and do it again. I am humbled to serve our citizens and I am proud to be able to contribute my part to this great nation."

- Mary Foster, IRS

"What does it mean to anyone given the opportunity align their shoulders with thousands of hard working Americans willing to do what ever it takes to serve, honor, and protect, what our fathers and father's father and the fathers before them sacrificed so much to preserve. We live in a nation of plenty and the reward are few in the eyes of those that only wish to receive. What a career in public service means to me is to be counted among those "Working for America". Willing to give."

- Drand Dixon, GSA

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"We are a special people, a chosen governmental generation endowed with much creativity, responsibility, boldness and initiative."

"We strive to make the right choices and decisions to enhance and protect the country. As our country seems to be exploding with terrorism and low budgets and retiring employees we try to make a difference."

- Donna Berean, USNRC

"A rush of adrenalin when I report to work, the knowledge that I can make a difference in the way the country operates that I have the power to make things happen and that my acts can create historic landmarks. Above all that I reflect the Majesty of the most powerful Democracy in the World. Yes, that is what it means to Work for America! As an Immigrant I stand witness to how wonderful working for Uncle Sam is. Where else can one find so much acceptance and tolerance?"

- Anjana Challa, GSA, Memphis, TN

"It has been a pleasure working for America during these past 39 years at CDC. Traveling many times in the USA and abroad I met many wonderful people in public health service. Helping people is one of my hobbies."

- Wallis DeWitt, CDC

"Working for America is an honorable privilege!"

- Winnette L. Drains, IRS

"We are a special people, a chosen governmental generation endowed with much creativity, responsibility, boldness and initiative."

- Kenneth Owens Davis, CDC

"I've acquired a wealth of experience, training, and lessons learned with four agencies. The pubic sector has invested wisely in my skills, work ethics and value system. I'm only one amongst many.... Longstanding tenure has taught me appreciation for Federal agencies for what they've done, and continue to do for America."

- Christine B. Mayfield, Forest Service

"One cannot place a value on the gratitude you get from someone you've helped, nor one's involvement in a project that is working towards the greater public good. Whether the involvement is direct or indirect, unlike the private sector, our bottom line is the American public."

- Shannon D. Brown, SSA

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"I make a difference in the lives of people who use information provided by me to make decisions about personal health, public health, and public policy. As a result, my career in public service is mentally rewarding and spiritually stimulating."

"My career allows me to affect the lives of people through addressing complex problems such as cancer and health disparities. I make a difference in the lives of people who use information provided by me to make decisions about personal health, public health, and public policy. As a result, my career in public service is mentally rewarding and spiritually stimulating."

- Tamiko Bohler, CDC

"The employees of the Federal Aviation Administration face a new set of challenges today because of our varied and delicate relationships around the world. Our mission is safety, and we take that mission very seriously and work hard to ensure that daily."

- Bernadette Keitt, FAA

Please continue on next page.



Essay Contest!!!

“Working for the federal government as a public servant for the past 28 years, has been very rewarding and enlightening. Everything has not always been clear-cut and wonderful, but overall, it has been an experience I wouldn't trade for anything. The training I've received, the people I've met and interacted with, and helped, have been extraordinary. The travel, the knowledge gained, and lessons of life that I've learned are immeasurable.”

- Jennifer Bailey, IRS

“I am a Medical Program Analyst who makes sure that employees comply with medical standards set forth by the FAA. By doing this, I contribute to the flying public's safety and well-being. Some days are more challenging than others, but I never take my job for granted. I am very blessed to have job security in a world of high unemployment rates. I am also thankful to earn the salary I do. There are many people struggling every day just to make ends meet.”

- Jenny Householder, FAA

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“A quote from my favorite author, Laura Ingalls Wilder, expresses my feelings toward helping others. I am beginning to learn that it is the sweet, simple things of life which are the real ones after all. Government service provides fertile ground for bringing about the sweet, simple things of life.”

“A career in public service means becoming a member of an organization whose ultimate goal is to serve the public. We are the gatekeepers of rules and regulations that set precedence for others to follow. I work in government because I get the satisfaction of knowing that I'm part of a structure that is committed to making the quality of life in our country better than any other. I'm proud to work for the largest employer in America: The U. S. Government”.

- Marilyn Aruca, IRS

“A single phone call ejects me from the complacency of home to the call of public service. Work as a Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster employee catapults me into communities devastated by disasters. I get to witness the greatness of America. In rural towns or urban areas, people of all colors and backgrounds reveal amazing courage and selflessness. Even with understandable frustrations, I see how they depend on and appreciate the federal government. Agencies work through differences to help them. The central grain of service, commitment and professionalism that permeates the government corps continually inspires me.”

- Lynne Hoffman Keating, FEMA

“I find the greatest meaning in Working for America in the post 9/11 era to be expressed in a poem by W. S. Mervin: 'Your absence has gone through me, Like thread through a needle. Everything I do is stitched with its color.' For all of us, those we lost in 9.11 have helped us redefine our dedication to the American public and refocus our efforts in Working for American. Everything I do in service of the public is stitched with the color of those who have gone before. I hope to add my own shade, however great or small, to one of those great threads of public service.”

- Jason Grimes, GSA

“A quote from my favorite author, Laura Ingalls Wilder, expresses my feelings toward helping others. I am beginning to learn that it is the sweet, simple things of life which are the real ones after all." Government service provides fertile ground for bringing about the sweet, simple things of life. During my first job, I could imagine that the person sitting across from me applying for benefits was someone from my large family. Something about the person or situation caused me to remember that if not for circumstances "there go I". Hearts grow by sharing joys and trials of others.”

- Judy Williamson, USDA, FNS, Nashville, TN

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“A career in public service means becoming a member of an organization whose ultimate goal is to serve the public. We are the gatekeepers of rules and regulations that set precedence for others to follow.”

“It is often said 'people serve best what they love most'. If so, then no other concept better symbolizes my view of public service. What a distinct honor to serve the greatest country on earth, America, the country I love. I'm gratified by the opportunity to serve things dearest to my heart: my friends, family, and community. Us fortunate ones chosen to serve do accept, but are not driven by the job benefits of our good fortune. Instead, we embrace the honor, pride, and dignity of knowing that working for America is a privilege not a right.”

-Calvin Leverette, SSA





For questions
 or additional information
 please call **Gwenne Campbell**
 at **(404) 331-4400**

**GSA invites you to join us in
 Orlando, Florida
 on May 11, 12 and 13 for our annual
 training extravaganza, EXPO 2004.**

Expo 2004 is the largest annual government to government event for all levels of personnel who make or impact procurement decisions. Choose from nearly 250 hours of acquisition training most with CEU credit and visit over 700 commercial partners showcasing their solutions. For three highly informative days, you'll see the latest products and services, network with colleagues and learn how to make the most effective procurement decisions. GSA's Expo 2004 promises to be the best and biggest yet. And it's all free! Get all you need to succeed.

**Register today! expo.gsa.gov
 or call 1 888 272-5526.**



may 2004

- 2 - 8 Public Service Recognition Week
- 10 New Agency Heads Luncheon
- 10 FEB Policy and Steering Committee Meeting
- 11 - 13 **GSA EXPO 2004**
It's not too late!



june 2004

- 7 FEB Policy and Steering Committee Meeting
- 8 FEB Seminar Dealing Successfully With P.I.T.A.
- 24 CFC Information Fair
- 29 FEB Full Board Meeting

Please mark your calendar!

The Atlanta Federal Executive Board
 Richard B. Russell Federal Building
 75 Spring Street, SW
 Room 1142
 Atlanta, Georgia 30303

**Please note
 this correction...**

The Atlanta FEB
 website address is:
www.atlanta.feb.gov