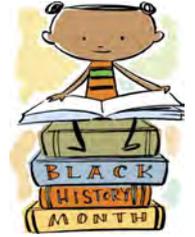


# Manning Matters

February 2016



## Breaking Barriers - Althea Gibson

In honor of Black History Month we are highlighting the accomplishments of Althea Gibson. Gibson was born in the Silver community of Clarendon County on August 1927. She would later move to Harlem, New York with her family. Growing up Gibson loved sports, especially basketball, but to her any ball would do. While playing paddleball at a city recreation facility, blues musician Buddy Walker, spotted her ability and encouraged her to try tennis. While Gibson was playing tennis she attracted the attention of local teacher Juan Serrell, who introduced her to Fred Johnson, a tennis coach, at the Cosmopolitan Tennis Club. The members of the club felt that Gibson had such potential that they purchased her a membership into the club, and in the summer of 1941 she started taking lessons and playing at the Cosmopolitan Tennis Club. In 1942 she began playing as an amateur, winning a tournament at the age of 15 and becoming the New York State African American girls' singles champion. The American Tennis Association was the association for African American tennis players, and Gibson would win the singles championships in 1944 and 1945 for the ATA. In 1945, Gibson was persuaded by Dr. Hubert Eaton and Dr. Walter Johnson, two African-American physicians who loved tennis, to move to Wilmington, NC and finish high school. Gibson graduated in three years near the top of her class. During this time she hadn't stopped playing tennis, winning nine singles championships in every tournament she entered one summer. She would go on to win the ATA women's singles national title ten years in a row. She decided to attend college and was accepted to Florida A&M University, where she graduated from in 1953. In 1949, she was the first African American woman to play in the Eastern Indoor Championships and the National Indoors Championship. This did not automatically open doors for her. In 1950, tennis star Alice Marble published an editorial slamming her sport for denying a player of Gibson's caliber to compete in the world's best tournaments. In 1951 she became the first African American to play at Wimbledon in England. She had begun her climb to the top of the tennis world. Gibson would ultimately win a total of 56 tournaments in her tennis career, including five Grand Slam singles titles. While she is most notably known for her tennis accomplishments, Gibson spent a number of years after retiring from tennis as a singer producing an album and appearing on the Ed Sullivan show. She also performed with the Harlem Globetrotters. In 1961, Gibson took up golf and broke another color barrier by being the first African American to join the Ladies Professional Golf Association, winning her members card in 1964. She would play in 171 tournaments between 1963 and 1977. Gibson would continue to impact the world of sports by teaching young people and lecturing on the importance of physical fitness. Gibson died in



2003 at the age of 76. If you want to learn more about Althea Gibson read her autobiography *I Always Wanted to Be Somebody*. We encourage you to learn more about notable African Americans and their achievements in our society this Black History Month.

*\*Information found in an article by Carol Sears Botsch, Associate Professor of Political Science, USC Aiken*

## Winter Fire Safety

The following fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire safe home this winter.

### Kerosene Heaters

- Be sure your heater is in good working condition. Inspect exhaust parts for carbon buildup. Be sure the heater has an emergency shut off in case the heater is tipped over.
- Never use fuel burning appliances without proper room venting. Burning fuel (coal, kerosene, or propane, for example) can produce deadly fumes.
- Use **ONLY** the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. **NEVER introduce a fuel into a unit not designed for that type fuel.**
- Keep kerosene, or other flammable liquids stored in approved metal containers, in well ventilated storage areas, outside of the house.
- **Never** fill the heater while it is operating or hot. When refueling an oil or kerosene unit, avoid overfilling.
- Refueling should be done outside of the home (or outdoors). Keep young children away from space heaters—especially when they are wearing night gowns or other loose clothing that can

be easily ignited.

- When using a fuel burning appliance in the bedroom, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a buildup of carbon monoxide.

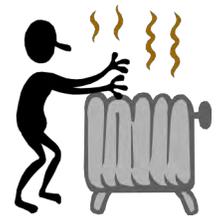
### Wood Stoves And Fireplaces

Wood stoves and fireplaces are becoming a very common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize their fire hazard. To use them safely:

- Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces and proper floor support and protection.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be laboratory tested.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- The stove should be burned hot

twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.

- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.
- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. **NEVER** close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.
- If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. **NEVER** break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.



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## Cities Mean Business Month

Main Street Manning is celebrating February as Cities Mean Business month. This campaign is intended to encourage new and stronger collaboration between local elected leaders and the business community to reinforce the fact that strong cities are the economic engines that help drive the state's competitiveness. Everyone is invited to attend a **Cities Mean Business Drop In on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at Magnolia**



**Studio inside Studio 1916 from 11 am to 1 pm.** Refreshments will be provided. If you would like to volunteer with Main Street Manning, please contact Carrie Trebil at City Hall 803-435-8477 ext 5132. Main Street Manning is a board of the City of Manning dedicated to revitalizing the business district through economic development, design excellence and business promotions.