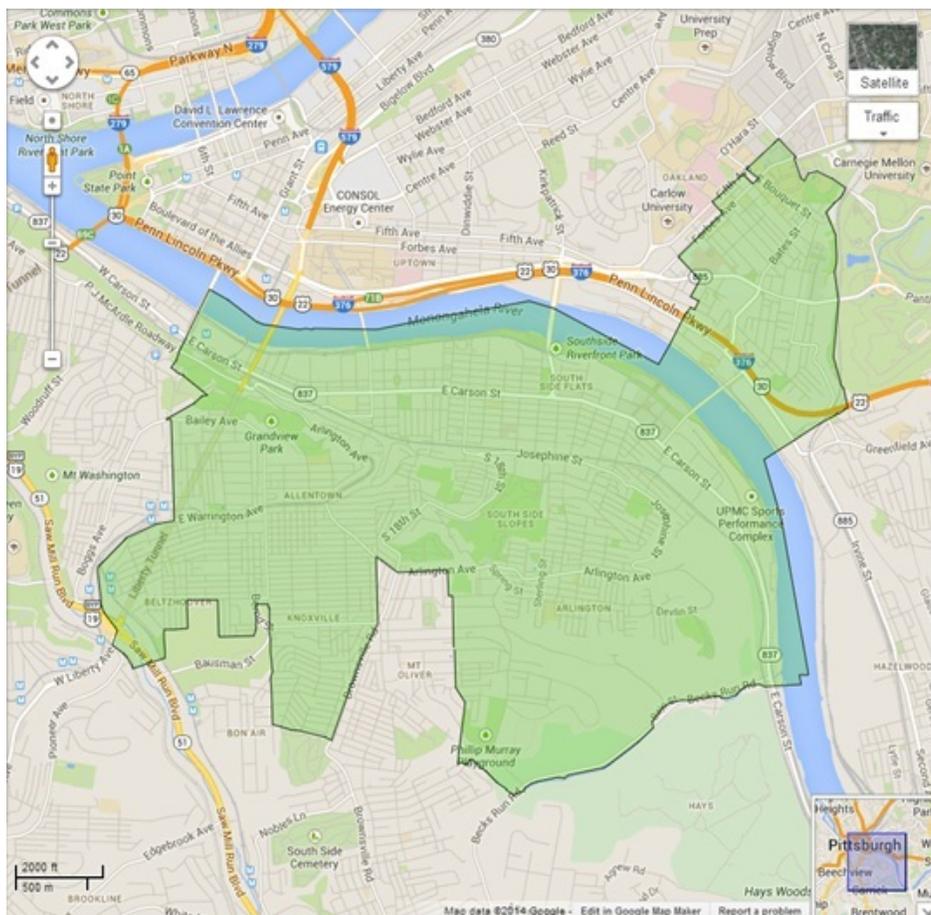


# DISTRICT 3

*Allentown, Arlington, Arlington Heights, Beltzhoover, Knoxville, Mt. Oliver, Oakland (Central and South), South Side Flats, South Side Slopes, St. Clair*



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## Welcome Back!

*By Hannibal Hopson / Community Relations Assistant*

— Here in the District 3 Council Office we feel it is important to recognize and spotlight outstanding news in our energetic, diverse community. The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight members/organizations and their efforts to improve the community. In the event that you have a story you feel is worth sharing, please contact our office at 412-255-2130.

## Black History Month Events: CLP



(CLP) -- Join the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh from now through the end of the month in celebration of Black History Month. **Until February 28th, multiple branches of CLP are hosting events every day in observance of Black History Month.** Some of the great events coming up include:

- All Day Movies at the Southside branch on 2/25, starting at 10:00 AM,
- a Gallery Exhibit through February 28th at the main (Oakland) branch.

Find the entire listing of all events through CLP through this link here:

[Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Black History Month events](#)

## Calling District 3's Fastest Runners!

Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon, Inc. (P3R), producers of the DICK'S Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon weekend of races, is **proud to announce its inaugural FedEx Ground Pittsburgh Marathon Relay District Duel!**



Promoting fitness and healthy competition, the FedEx Ground Pittsburgh Marathon Relay District Duel is an exciting opportunity for elected officials to coach a team made up of their district's fastest runners to compete against other district's runners in the FedEx Ground Pittsburgh Marathon Relay all while encouraging city pride, sportsmanship and healthy living.

Already registered your relay team but want to run for Council President Bruce Kraus? No worries! The Pittsburgh Marathon will refund your team's registration fees and get you on your way. Let us worry about the logistics. You worry about logging in those miles!

For more information about the FedEx Ground Pittsburgh Marathon Relay, please visit:

<http://www.pittsburghmarathon.com/marathon-relay>



## Look Good. Feel Good. Leave Better.

Nate Mitchell's Pittsburgh roots stretch back five generations when his family settled, first in Sharpsburg and then New Homestead, in the late 1800's. Growing up on the east side of the city in the neighborhood of Homewood, Mitchell graduated from Allerdice High School in Squirrel Hill. Developing a passion for cutting hair at an early age, Mitchell has been perfecting his craft for nearly 29 years and has been a business owner for 18. Mitchell points to the process of natural aesthetic evolution and the exercise and art of tonsorial expertise to be inspiring and motivating each and every day. "I enjoy the process--not just the end product--but the steps to get there as well," Mitchell explains. He finds personal expression important for every one and cutting hair as a means to spur self-expression.

### Tally Counting

Nate Mitchell always had a drive to become a business owner. Although he never initially pursued post-secondary education, he was inspired to open a barbershop by his trips to local university homecomings and visits to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. A college atmosphere is where he wanted his barbershop, and while flipping through the White Pages for

real estate, he got his wish in September 1997. At the time, Oakland was pretty rugged but had a great deal of open space and a very youthful atmosphere. Both the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC Medical systems were growing, however this was still a business district community dominated by local mom and pop stores and multicultural establishments. Mitchell knew there weren't many barber shops in the area, which would make his services a necessity, but he was curious as to how much foot traffic he could take advantage of. Accordingly, once Mitchell had scheduled an inspection, he purchased a hand tally counter and sat on the front stoop of the property, counting people and cars passing by on a random late summer day. When asked what confirmed his decision to purchase the property, he states, "...and once I got to 4,500 [passerby's and cars], I figured it was a no-brainer. I didn't care if the place had mice or roaches, I knew I wanted it," cementing his decision. Subsequently, he did indeed find roaches during the inspection and needed to purchase the neighboring storefront to complete the deal. However, Natural Choice was birthed

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and Mitchell's vision was becoming reality.

Another practical reality about opening a successful business is establishing constructive relationships with other businesses around you. Meyran Avenue stands as one of the most vital corridors in the Oakland business district, being one of the only two-way streets with parking in Oakland between Forbes and Fifth Avenues. With eight active businesses within one block, Mitchell worked hard to develop good energies and goodwill towards the coexisting network. Looking back on his early years as a business owner he explained it was not always the case. However, transforming and growing as an entrepreneur in a business district is critical, and he points to experience as a teacher for his own growth.

### Au Naturel

The name 'Natural Choice' was inspired by the Mitchell's fascination for 'the organic,' and business is geared towards the evolution of natural experiences for unprocessed hair. This yearning for raw, whole experience is continually challenged. His entrepreneurial theory for organic growth, much like his business, needed to evolve naturally. This process was especially critical when brainstorming creative, engaging ideas for his second storefront. Similarly to his growth as a young entrepreneur in a new lucrative setting, campaigns for 113 Meyran Ave traced his mindset for productive means. From a video game entertainment center to a retail traditional African clothing and bookstore, 113 Meyran Ave has been one campaign short of a parking lot for the establishment. Impressively, Mitchell found solutions to not only 113 Meyran but also Oakland parking permit obstacles.

Natural Choice now combines both a traditional barbershop and a hair salon into its business model, and each component, interestingly enough, has its own storefront. The separation between barbershop and salon can often be confusing to a passerby and in fact, even to the average customer of either. Yet amazingly, this model is not only innovative but also efficient. When discussing the model with Mitchell, we both agreed that there are delicacies and rituals associated with tonsorial (of or relating to barbering) art. Whether it is the aromas of freshly cut hair and talc powder that fill your nostrils upon entry to a barbershop. Or the sight of customers occupying a row of hair dryers, flipping through pages of their favorite magazines, the experience of a 'do' almost

## Events



### Give A Thread

#### Who?

**University of Pittsburgh**

#### What?

**Clothing donations both youth and adult in any condition**

#### When?

**Until March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
(recently extended)**

#### Drop Off Location

**Box in the lobby of City County Building**

#### Why?

**For the year of sustainability, Pitt will be working to begin a thrift shop on campus. All other clothes will be donated!**

**When leaving donations, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS!**

(Continued)

always supplements the 'do' itself. Natural Choice houses both, catering to men and women separately, yet directly next to each other, connecting practicality with creativity while maintaining separate vibes and energies.

Cecily Pollard, a stylist at Natural Choice, has been stationed at 113 Meyran Ave for the last 13 years. Since 2002 she has witnessed "amazing atmosphere changes and improvements" to Natural Choice as a whole and appreciates the separation between barbershop and hair salon. Also having worked at other hair salons, she relishes the location of Natural Choice, being so close to multiple students from all over the world. "It spurs imagination and helps creativity," Pollard says as she remarks about the chance to do so many different styles due to the diverse atmosphere that Natural Choice is submerged in.

### **Continual Entrepreneurial Evolution**

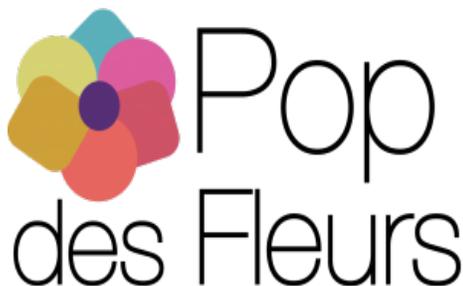
Every year, new faces roll in and out of Oakland, and Natural Choice bears witness to the fluid movement of students. "The students bring good energy," Mitchell esteems, and Natural Choice tries to match that energy everyday. Promoting and stimulating education is important to Natural Choice as it recently launched a book sharing campaign, as customers are encouraged to read and exchange books located on shelves in the establishment. Recent events highlighted Natural Choice's presence in the small business and startup world, as it was a kickoff host to #GoGoPgh, 'an unconference dedicated crowd funding and Pittsburgh' hosted by Indiegogo, the largest global fundraising site. Additionally, Mitchell also hopes to complete his training for a license to teach in March, which may open the door for a barber school or even your burning desire to etch a perfect fade.

The evolution of business is often overlooked. It takes time and precision to run a business, and even more attention to detail and growth to continue to run a successful business. Natural Choice for natural hair has harnessed natural excitement for looking and feeling good for the last 18 years. Whether you are in need of realignment or just want to share a good book or conversation, feel free to check out Natural Choice at 111 and 113 Meyran Avenue.



## South Side Community Council Committee + the Fiber Arts Guild

An outdoor installation planned for the winter of 2016, Pop des Fleurs is designed to brighten the dark season with handmade, sustainable, pop-up flower gardens. The flowers will be constructed by the community and made primarily out of repurposed materials.



Learn how to create recycled flowers at the next Public Workshop!

**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Southside**

**2205 East Carson St. 15203**

**Tuesday, February 24 2015 | 6-8pm**

**Chamber of Commerce**

**1100 East Carson St. 15203**

**Thursday, February 26 2015 | 6-8pm**

To donate materials, contact Jenn Holliman at [Jennifer.holliman@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.holliman@gmail.com)

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## Tips for the Winter

As the days become shorter and temperatures continue to drop, making sure that you're prepared for winter and that your home is "winter ready" is important. Pennsylvania American Water has released an "It's All About the Preparation" infographic highlighting the essential, proactive steps homeowners can take to maintain their pipes.

### Protect your pipes by:

- Reducing sources of cold air within the house (plugging drafts, sealing windows, etc.)
- Insulating pipes and knowing how to properly shut off the water.
- Maintaining a constant drip of running water.

### If your pipes do freeze:

- Immediately shut off the water source and attempt to thaw the frozen pipes with warm air.
- Cautiously turn back on the water source, as to not further damage the pipes.

To report problems with frozen or leaking pipes, or simply for more information, you can reach Pennsylvania American Water 24 x 7 at 1-800-565-7292. More cold weather tips can be found at [www.pennsylvaniaamwater.com](http://www.pennsylvaniaamwater.com), or by visiting the company's YouTube channel ([youtube.com/paamwater](http://youtube.com/paamwater)) or its Facebook page ([facebook.com/pennsylvaniaamwater](http://facebook.com/pennsylvaniaamwater)).

## District 3 Internal Office News

### Satellite Offices:

412-689-1130

### Southside (monthly):

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**

**10am – 2pm**

UPMC Mercy Southside Outpatient Center

2000 Mary St, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

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### Oakland (monthly):

**\*Appointment Only\***

People’s Oakland

3433 Bates St, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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### Arlington (weekly):

**Tuesday**

**10am – 2pm**

Allegheny County Adult Probation Day Reporting Center

2322 Arlington Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15210

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*Photo taken by Teenie Harris*

*“And probably never before [has] Cum Posey been able to gather together in Gray uniforms a greater galaxy of brilliant stars... By their achievement the Homesteaders have reflected credit not only upon themselves but upon the entire city... The 1930 Grays... the most brilliant Negro team ever to cavort around a diamond-shaped arena”*

*– Chester Washington, sports editor, Pittsburgh Courier*

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### District 3 Office

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**Neil Manganaro, Community Relations Manager**

**Hannibal Hopson, Community Relations Assistant**

### Acknowledgements

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