

# THE TIDINGS



LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

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A community based, non-profit corporation, established 1995; IRS Code 501(c)(3); EIN 94-3214160

VOLUME XXIII

June 2018

ISSUE VI

“The Tidings” is an editorial newsletter. Posted opinions are not necessarily those of the City of Oakland

## Jellies: Messengers of Ocean Recovery or the Rise of Slime?



The jellyfish in the photo at left is the Pacific sea nettle (*Chrysaora fuscescens*), which can be found up and down California’s coast. Populations of these animals have been “blooming” this spring along the California coast, starting in Monterey and progressively making their way north. Thousands have been observed in San Francisco Bay. Lake Merritt’s BioBlitzers observed a couple on April 28<sup>th</sup>, a seeming first for the lake.

A Beached Pacific Sea Nettle; Bay Nature

So why did so many jellyfish appear on Bay beaches this spring? According to naturalist Eve Minkin of **Bay Nature**, jellyfish blooms happen when a variety of factors come together. The past two years have been unfavorable for jellies because El Nino conditions suppressed the upwelling of nutrients their tiny prey depends on. No food- no jellies. With the waning of El Nino, and return of upwelling of nutrient-rich deep water, conditions for jellyfish reproduction have improved and populations have exploded.

Another controversial idea was suggested in 2001 by Jeremy Jackson (*Science*, 293:629-37). Jackson predicted that jellyfish may one day rule the oceans! Called “The Rise of Slime” hypothesis it argues that with a warming climate and overfishing, increasingly large numbers of jellyfish, along with algae blooms and other slimy blobs, will colonize the oceans. In a recent Time Magazine article, “What Jellyfish Know That Humans Don’t”, researcher Juli Bewald identified other human environmental interferences that favor jellies: 1) shoreline development provides ideal baby jellyfish (polyp) habitat, 2) the low-oxygen environments we create by pollution (dead zones to fish) zones are quite habitable for jellies, and 3) overfishing of species like the Pacific Sunfish *Mola mola* that keep jellies populations in check allows their numbers to increase.

There is a lot we do not know about how the world oceans work. **June 8<sup>th</sup> was World Ocean Day** and the focus was plastic pollution, something the Lake Merritt Institute combats on a daily basis. Pollution in Lake Merritt rides the tides through the Channel to the Bay and on to the Ocean.



LOVE THE OCEAN? LOVE YOUR LAKE!.....

See color photos in the email edition of *The Tidings* at [lakemerritt.org](http://lakemerritt.org) under LMI, and on our website [lakemerrittinstitute.org](http://lakemerrittinstitute.org).

**LMI IN MAY: 2,720 lbs. of trash were removed from the lake in May totaling 13,880 pounds total so far in 2018!** LMI Director James Robinson and LMI Staff hosted 220 volunteers, made 4 educational presentations. (0.00” rain recorded LMI rain gauge)

## RE-OPENING IS IN SIGHT FOR THE ROTARY NATURE CENTER!



Right: June 2nd OPR&YD Gathering; Photo by John Kirkmire

Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development (OPR&YD) held another lively, well-attended meeting on Saturday (6/2) to review proposals for programming at the Nature Center. More than 30 people attended representing at least 20 organizations (listed in email edition). The RNC CORE Team announced that it looks forward to re-opening the Rotary Nature Center this summer.

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce and receive feedback on five programming proposals that had been received and

accepted by OPR&YD for implementation this summer and fall. Supervisor Karis Griffin said that approximately 11 proposals had been received and that discussions of long term organization and “governance” of the RNC would be postponed as they determine what works in the next year or so. Discussion of a proposal for signage and exhibits submitted by the Community for Lake Merritt was also postponed.

The five proposals are: 1) **Birds Are Natural Ambassadors for Nature, Science, Art, & Community**; 2) **Bar Code the Lake** 3) **Learning to Know Nature Through the Senses**, 4) **S.T.E.M. Projects for Youth at the Rotary Nature Center**, and 5) **Insect Sciences Museum program**.

The full proposals have been shared by OPR&YD with their writers’ permission. Supervisor Griffin announced that a sixth proposal will be accepted requesting the return of Saturday morning nature programs, written by two young girls—and that is our June **Ray of Hope**.

More photos and a guest essay on pages 9 and 10.

### Ray\* of Hope – Nine-year-old Advocates for Nature Programming

...in honor of late Tidings Editor. Ray\* Perman



Photo by Eddie Dunbar

Nine-year-old Naya and her friend Amaya spoke up at the OPR&YD’s Meet and Greet last January at the Lake Merritt Boating Center, asking “When will the nature programs for children return?” The girls had participated numerous times in the RNC’s Young Naturalist Camp, Touch the Earth Camp and a Winter Workshop: Watersheds. They felt a nature education deficit in their lives as a result of the Rotary Nature Center’s closure.

That took courage to speak in front of 70+ adults, but Naya did not stop there. In April, assisted by NC Naturalist Michelle Cox, she wrote and submitted a programming proposal to OPR&YD called “Kid’s Club (Nature-Based Activity Club).” And Supervisor Karis Griffin announced to the public RNC Proposal Gathering on June 2<sup>nd</sup> that Naya’s proposal

had been accepted and would be implemented when the RNC opens.

Congratulations, Naya! Thank you OPR&YD for listening to the voices of Oakland’s youth, the much-needed next generation of environmentalists! **LOVE YOUR LAKE!**.....🌊

## Dank Delights at Lake Merritt By Hilary Powers – Golden Gate Audubon Society

May 23 felt like the coldest 4th Wednesday of the year, with enough moving water in the air to require windshield wipers on the drive to the park. Nonetheless, 17 intrepid birders -- including a serious pre-teen who was returning to India later in the day -- joined Golden Gate Audubon for the morning walk. Conditions improved somewhat through the morning, and we even had one fleeting patch of sunlight (captured by someone across the lake, who emailed the picture accompanying this article to a friend in the group).

The lake rewarded the attention, presenting three Least Terns showing off their yellow bills and diving and fishing and chasing each other, just as though they were routine visitors instead of never-seen-here-before, plus some novel-for-the-month sights. Eared and Horned Grebes, missing in May as far as my records go (2009), provided one representative each in full blazing breeding plumage, and the cormorants on the islands seemed further along than usual -- or possibly behind, though that seems less likely. At any rate, instead of the crowd of branchers observed last year, we had nests full of adults with half-sized youngsters poking their heads up to be fed. One male was crouching in a nest, head back and tail up in the “Lookit me! I’ve snagged a condo! Come live with me and be my love!” pose, ready to start the season’s next round of domesticity. A Black Phoebe had a couple of fledglings parked on the rocks at the foot of the lake wall, far from hidden but convenient for bringing back bugs snatched near the surface of the water -- and for long, satisfying looks at the chestnut edging on the young birds’ back feathers and quick glimpses of bright yellow-orange throats.

A couple of Canada Geese rested belly-down on the islands, heads high and white chin patches glowing like candles -- probably prospective mamas on eggs. That’s late for the area; two park employees stopped us with different places where babies were to be found (though we didn’t actually see any), and the geese at Middle Harbor Park have had clutches following them around since mid-April, but most of the geese in Lakeside park have no offspring in hand. They seem to have arrived early for the molt migration, airing the odd empty wing and leaving a few flight feathers lying about, foretelling a busy and messy June.



Least Tern; Bay Nature, Rick Lewis

One male Western Bluebird showed off in the trees below the playground, though the rest of his family stayed out of sight, while both Violet-green and Northern Rough-winged Swallows zipped across the lawns. Less happily received were a European Starling and a pair of Brown-headed Cowbirds in the bowling green; handsome birds all but unwelcome for being aggressively invasive in the former case and enthusiastic nest parasites in the latter.

All in all, it was a chilly but happy group that wound up the walk a little after noon, having seen 34 species (two up from last year) and enjoyed yet another visit with Lake Merritt, where every day is a good day....

\*\*\*

**AUDUBON BIRDWALKS AT THE LAKE:** Join bird expert Hilary Powers any fourth Wednesday of the month for a free “Birdwalk” at the lake. Muster at the geodesic bird cage near the Nature Center at 9:30 a.m. for what are always fascinating introductions to lake birdlife.\*\*\*



Intrepid birders from across the lake. Photo credit: Peggy Rehm



## CLIMATE CORNER – Climate News – Where to find reliable information?

A Guest editorial by Dr. Richard Bailey

Information: That is what is needed if we are to solve our problems, especially climate disruption. And by that I mean responsibly reported facts, not prejudicial rants that serve only to serve one's ego and personal power. So, where can we find such information? Where can we find useful, timely, and detailed accounts of how climate change is disrupting the lives of people of this planet, and what they are doing about it?

One of the best sources is “Inside Climate News” a Pulitzer Prize-winning, non-profit, non-partisan news organization dedicated to covering climate change, energy and the environment. Founded in 2007, they are staffed by professional journalists, many of whom bring decades of experience from leading media organizations in the nation, including the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, ProPublica, Los Angeles Times, Bloomberg News and Frontline. They have earned national recognition for their work, and many of the most prestigious awards in journalism, including the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting. Check them out by searching “[Inside Climate News](#).”

For an example of this work, view the [story about what is happening in Norfolk, VA](#), a 400 year old city with many of the same problems as Oakland (and 350 other U.S. communities threatened by sea level rise). There, not only the naval base, but also low income people are facing decisions on what neighborhoods can be saved, how, and especially how to do it while implementing social justice.

*A flooded street in Norfolk, VA. Hmm, does the high rise building look like the one on Lakeside Drive, next to Lake Merritt?*

*Can redevelopment provide public housing without displacement while accommodating sea level rise?*



The Coal Port – It's About More Than Coal Dust. The recent irresponsible court decision threatening to halt Oakland's efforts to stop Utah coal from being shipped out of our local port ignores the elephant in the room, which is the fact that civilized people have to phase out burning fossil fuels. To do otherwise is to commit our children to lives increasingly dominated by the social disruption of sea level rise, flooding, drought, famine, water shortages, water wars, oil wars, etc. all of which are exacerbated by fossil fueled climate change.

To learn how to phase out fossil fuels using the power of the economy, check out the [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#). By the use of a fee on carbon emissions (remitted to every household as a dividend) fossil fuels will become increasingly unable to compete with renewable energy. That's the ticket!

**LINKS** to websites can be found in [REFERENCES](#) in the June Newsletter articles on page 12.

## Homeless Encampments and Illegal Dumping Don't Belong in a Wildlife Refuge!

Few people would disagree with this title, but how to respond realistically and humanely to the crushing stresses homelessness and dumping place on Lake Merritt's human and wildlife habitat is a conundrum that has not yielded to any kind of resolution. How do they affect Lake Merritt?

Homeless encampments at the lake pose sanitation problems that can spread disease on land and in the water, increase floating trash in the lake for which the City may be fined by the Water Board, and, we have become aware, attract for-profit dumpers. Dumpers and campers have doubled the amount of solid trash that must be removed from the lake and channel, according to LMI's Director James Robinson. Apparent dumping of hypodermic needles even at some distance from storm drain outfalls causes a health hazard at the shoreline. Retired LMI Director Dick Bailey has suggested the use of surveillance cameras in dumping hot-spots to catch and punish repeat and for profit dumping.



It is difficult to quantify the impact on the wildlife refuge, but we know that migratory bird species in decline depend on the lake for a safe environment to rest, feed and raise young. Plastic and other trash directly threatens birds (see entangled coot in Feb 2018 Tidings). It eventually even contributes to microplastics that can end up in our food! Aside from this, encampments spoil the beauty of the shoreline for many users – joggers, strollers, birders, kayakers and sail-boaters. They block public access to what should be one of Oakland's most popular recreational amenities.

The detriments inflicted on the lake put LMI's Clean Lake Program volunteers at risk as well as the general public. Increasingly LMI is asked to remove large pieces, such as the tuff shed that ended up in the Channel. Hauling them out and disposing of them means less time for LMI's other important duties.

In March, the coalition of Lakeside Park groups, the LM Advocates, heard speakers from the Mayor's Office and City Council about homelessness in Lakeside Park (see March Tidings). They were moved to appoint a Homeless Advocates Working Group (Jennifer Gerard, John Kirkmire and Naomi Schiff) to delve deeper into the problem and make recommendations. Last week the group circulated a letter to the Mayor and City Council for endorsement asking for increased funding for sanitation, shelter, and services to Oakland's growing unsheltered population in the mid cycle budget adjustment process. In addition to expanding services, they called for engaging cooperatively with unsheltered residents as paid Green Teams to improve cleanliness and setting up "pilot projects" of "alternative housing models" on City-owned land. "We have come to the understanding that this is a time for everyone to pull together and work collaboratively to accommodate all our residents, whether regular park users, or people with no shelter," the letter states.

To many this leaves the Lake ecosystem vulnerable to increased use and abuse by unsheltered residents. However, it might be the most compassionate and realistic way to control the negative impacts in the context of a wider societal human crisis. Sadly, Lake Merritt has lost some of its character as a peaceful refuge from problems of the big city and in our personal lives. The S.F. Chronicle reported Sunday that a jogger inexcusably assaulted a homeless man and tossed his possessions in the lake (Sun., June 10, 2018). Homeless Advocates Working Group letter below (page 11) and photos of impacts (pages 7-8).





**THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!** Volunteer groups in May included Chinese American International School (not pictured), Raskob Day School and Learning Institute, Park Day Middle, the Mosaic group, and Acorn Woodland Elementary. Our U-Clean-It self-organized teams, and LMI A-TEAM regulars. We appreciate your efforts and community spirit. Great Job! See color photos online at [lakemerritt.org](http://lakemerritt.org) under LMI, and at our website: [lakemerrittinstitute.org](http://lakemerrittinstitute.org)



Raskob Day School and Learning Institute



Acorn Woodland Elementary



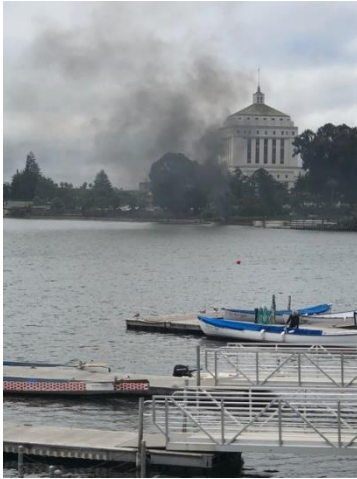
The Mosaic Group



Park Day School Middle School



## Photos: Impacts on Lake Merritt of Homeless Encampments and Illegal Dumping



A fire at an encampment polluted the air, required Fire Department response, and charred an area of shoreline. Photo by James Robinson (left) and SF Chronicle (right).



Belongings from homeless were removed for Warriors' Victory Celebration. How soon will they be back? Photo/SF Chronicle

## Hypodermic Needles that Arrive at the Lake via Storm Drains Are a Public Health Hazard

The storm drain outfall (#54) drains a specific part of the City where they would have been used & discarded. The City probably already knows about those places. The producer of the syringes may not be at fault, though. It is legal to purchase syringes.

<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/policy/RetailSaleOfSyringes.htm>. The crime is improper disposal or dumping, and it would be hard to prove that at the end of the storm drain.



Hypodermic needles dumped into storm drains arrive at Lake Merritt. Photos by John Kirkmire

### **The Law**

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/homehazwaste/sharps/>

State law (H&SC §[118286](#)) makes it illegal to dispose of home-generated sharps waste (hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles, lancets, and other devices that are used to penetrate the skin for the delivery of medications) in the trash or recycling containers, and requires that all sharps waste be transported to a collection center in a sharps container approved by the [local enforcement agency](#).

### **Homelessness, welfare get boost in California budget deal**

by jonathan j. cooper, associated press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Jun 8, 2018, 8:33 PM ET

<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/homelessness-welfare-boost-california-budget-deal-55764201>

Gov. Jerry Brown and Democratic legislative leaders agreed to spend \$500 million to combat homelessness and \$90 million to increase grants for people on welfare as part of a \$139 billion budget compromise released Friday.

The compromise also includes \$500 million in one-time spending on emergency grants to help cities and counties reduce homelessness as the state deals with surging numbers of homeless people on the streets of its major cities. The grants can be used on a range of programs, including housing vouchers and shelter construction.



## Additional Information and Photos from the Rotary Nature Center Meeting June 2<sup>nd</sup>

**ATTENDANCE: 30+ PEOPLE**, Director Nicholas Williams and the RNC CORE Team (Karis Griffin, Alan Briskin, CJ Hirschfield and James Robinson) and **~20 ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED:** Lake Merritt Institute, Golden Gate Audubon, Alameda Beekeepers, Oakland Municipal Band, Nature Healing, Measure DD Coalition, CA Center for Natural History, Insect Sciences Museum, Lake Merritt Advocates, Patty Donald (ret. director of Shorebird Nature Center in Berkeley), Oakland Museum of CA, Rotary Nature Center naturalists and former volunteers, a mother of small children, Oakland Public Works, *ad hoc* group members, OPR&YD employees, Community For Lake Merritt, Permaculture Society, RNC neighbors, Oakland Parks & Rec Foundation, lakemerritt.org and the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club, Adams Point Neighborhood Group (APNG), WhollyH2O. Photos by John Kirkmire and Eddie Dunbar.



OPR&YD Director Nicholas Williams speaks to group.



David Wofford, Jennie Gerard and Alan Briskin



Cindy Margulis, GGAudubon; Eddie Dunbar, Insect Sciences Museum; Damon Tighe of CA Center for Natural History



Left: Adrian Cotter of Community For Lake Merritt speaks. Right: LMI Exec. Director James Robinson speaks.

## **GUEST ESSAY: The “*Chez Panisse*” of Nature Centers - by Catherine Ference**

I'm writing to ask you to **keep the Rotary Center at Lake Merritt open** and continue its long tradition of interpretation of our natural world - specifically interpreting Lake Merritt, which is both Oakland's jewel and one of the oldest wildlife sanctuaries in North America.

True, the place had become a little run-down and tired. And it seems that the animals there were not being taken care of in the way that they should have been.

But please, let's use our creative juices to re-imagine the place AND ask ourselves - *could there be a more important and crucial time for the mission of nature centers?* I think not. We are living during a frightening time of climate change and the largest extinction of so many species. Can even the most amazing staff at the Rotary Center change that? No, *but what they could do is teach the larger community about the plants, animals, birds and fish that inhabit Lake Merritt and help the community make connections between the health and well being of our local environment and the health of our planet.* It's a simple mission - know one big thing! Know the special place that is Lake Merritt, share that knowledge with the public and connect the dots between the health of our local environs and the world. Please keep the Rotary Center open and continue its important work as a nature center!

I grew up in Oakland and had the good fortune to spend many an hour at Lake Merritt. Today I live in Berkeley and still visit Oakland and Lake Merritt often. I'm old enough to remember Paul Covel and his quiet, gentle manner as he taught children about the bees in the bee hive or about the birds in the cages. I could go on and on about my happy memories, but keeping the Rotary Center open isn't about nostalgia. Keeping the Rotary Center open is the right thing to do because the world needs nature centers whose mission is to connect the community with nature and instill values that encourage people to protect and preserve our planet.

Finally, while searching online about the Rotary Center, I came across this passage by Rex Buress who was writing about the Feather River Nature Center. Mr. Buress wrote:

*"I received my grounding in nature centers at Oakland's Nature Center, and witnessed the advancement of our kid volunteers — the formation of future wildlife advocates. In particular was Jim Covel, who went on to be a ranger and finally a director at Monterey Aquarium. Jim Carlton had a career in marine biology, Frank Sato was a moth expert, became a teacher of entomology.*

*Most gratifying was Elizabeth Sunday. As a 12-year-old, she followed me around when I was photographing animals, and 25 years later, returned to tell me about her career in photography! "You started it," she said! She had been to Africa photographing natives in villages, using a special technique with mirrors that she developed.*

*Thus go the stories of the influence that Centers and Museums make in spreading inspiration to aspiring students of all ages."*

It strikes me that Oakland's Rotary Center is - and can continue to be - the *Chez Panisse* of nature centers. You know how half the notable restaurants you read about were started by someone who worked at *Chez Panisse* and was inspired by their time there to go out into the world and make pastries, sausages or roast coffee beans? The Rotary Center has been that place for nature lovers! Let it continue to be that - the world needs more nature lovers.



## **Homeless Advocates Working Group Letter**

Dear Mayor Schaaf, City Council Members, City Administrator Landreth, and Staff,

Recently about 30 groups focused on Lake Merritt have been meeting to discuss how to safeguard and improve the parks around Lake Merritt, the facilities within it, and the coordination of everyone's efforts. As you know, one of the issues concerning our groups has been the growing number of encampments throughout the parklands of Lake Merritt. We know that you receive complaints and worries from citizens. We have come to the understanding that this is a time for everyone to pull together and work collaboratively to accommodate all our residents, whether regular park users, or people with no shelter.

Therefore, we urge your support and funding in the FY '18-'19 budget for three efforts to address the city-wide encampment crisis:

1) **Improve sanitation and health measures**, as outlined by the Homeless Advocacy Working Group, for \$1 million: Provide adequate water, hand-washing, health & hygiene facilities, shower capability, porta-potties, & rubbish removal services for all encampments of six (6) or more people-units

2) **Support "green teams" established by the unsheltered residents**, by providing debris bags, tools, and trash pickup. Establish a small stipend for participation (either through the city directly or through one of the nonprofits), as has been done in many other cities. Several of these teams already exist and have made noticeable improvements in their areas; we should support this and we should support the resultant involvement of residents in their communities and in better interaction with city workers.

3) **Fund and facilitate three pilot projects** of sheltered communities as suggested by the Homeless Advocacy Working Group, for \$3 million. At the request of homeless representatives, at least one of the temporary shelter communities should be a clean-and-sober-only area: Enable three (3) "pilot projects" of "alternative housing models" on City-owned land: (a) 2 to 3 small-home villages; (b) a village of converted shipping containers; (c) a 100-unit comprehensive campus of manufactured housing units, complete with gang kitchen, classrooms, computer room, storage, counseling, and job training.

We have come to agree that unless the unsheltered community members are themselves part of the effort, City efforts will not succeed. We urge you to appropriate money wisely now, rather than incurring increased expenditures later on in remedial public works, social services, and health services efforts.

Thank you for your attention to our comments.

Sincerely,

Naomi Schiff, Measure DD Coalition, Oakland Heritage Alliance, Lake Merritt Advocates, Lake Merritt Weed Warriors

John Kirkmire, [lakemerritt.org](http://lakemerritt.org), Lake Merritt Advocates

Jennie Gerard, Measure DD Coalition, Lake Merritt Weed Warriors, Lake Merritt Advocates

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## **REFERENCES in the June Newsletter articles:**

### **Jellyfish Bloom**

<https://baynature.org/article/why-did-so-many-jellyfish-wash-onto-bay-beaches-this-spring/>  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/lake-merritt-bioblitz-april-2018-city-nature-challenge>  
<http://time.com/4999193/hurricane-harvey-jellyfish/>  
<https://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/52080/title/Ocean-Sunfish-Could-Offer-Clues-to-the--Rise-of-Slime-/>

Still other scientists think that the jellyfish blooms of jellies are really not that unusual in the long term they may be quite usual driven by decadal cycles in ocean water conditions. Recurrent jellyfish blooms may be a consequence of global oscillations or other as yet understood ocean processes.

Questioning the Rise of Gelatinous Zooplankton in the World's Oceans,  
<https://doi.org/10.1525/bio.2012.62.2.9>

World Ocean Day  
<http://www.worldoceansday.org/>

### **Climate Corner**

<https://insideclimatenews.org/about>

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/15052018/norfolk-virginia-navy-sea-level-rise-flooding-urban-planning-poverty-coastal-resilience>

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

### **Homeless Encampments and Illegal Dumping**

From past The Tidings:

“Let’s Get Radical” Nov 2017

[http://www.lakemerrittinstitute.org/newsletters/2017\\_10\\_Newsletter.pdf](http://www.lakemerrittinstitute.org/newsletters/2017_10_Newsletter.pdf)

[https://www.lakemerritt.org/uploads/7/7/2/9/7729843/02\\_2018\\_tt\\_2-15.pdf](https://www.lakemerritt.org/uploads/7/7/2/9/7729843/02_2018_tt_2-15.pdf) (entangled coot)

“Lake Merritt Advocates Focus on Homeless Encampments” April 2018

Matier and Ross – Homeless removed in advance of Warriors’ celebration:

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/sports/article/Oakland-tells-homeless-to-move-from-Lake-Merritt-12955045.php#photo-15640058>

Plastic in our food:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-44416717/plastic-and-cotton-found-in-uk-s-wild-mussels>

Assault on homeless man, belongings tossed in lake:

<https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Lake-Merritt-assault-jogger-homeless-man-video-12982844.php>

**EDITOR: Katie Noonan**—“The Tidings” is published by the Lake Merritt Institute (LMI) entirely with private funding donated to LMI, and not with funds from the City of Oakland. To contribute to LMI, use PayPal at the LMI website (lakemerrittinstitute.org) or send a check to: Lake Merritt Institute, 568 Bellevue Ave., Oakland, CA 94610-5026. LMI is a California State non-profit corporation; IRS Code 501(c)(3): EIN 94-3214160