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Holly Sewell updated the description.
Admin · October 26, 2014

This is an open forum for issues concerning the Ojai Valley community. It is lightly moderated, which means that you primarily moderate yourself. Obvious spam messages will be deleted and we will be defining what spam is, as a community. You may promote your business, if it relates to the Ojai valley. In here, you may start a conversation and veer from topic as often as you'd like. People may not agree with you, you should expect that and it's ok. It will not be deleted or edited by the admins. If something in this forum bothers you, it is up to you to block the content/post/or member and scroll on. Unless it is illegal, we will not choose what is or isn't appropriate for the masses. If it is being read and being responded to, there is obviously an audience. Welcome to the forum! Post away!

Maryse Gartner and 160 others 53 Comments

Like Comment

FROM NOTIFICATIONS



Alex Bury
December 17 at 11:03pm

I think now is a good time to readdress the issue of tourism in the Ojai Valley.

I know it's easy and sort of fun to bash the tourists that come here, the stupid hipster hats they wear, and the traffic that's produced.

But tourism is a major part of the local economy and has been for many years. Local families rely on tourism to put food on the table and make ends meet.

Last June, a small but vocal group convinced the city council to stop promoting the city. This resulted in the Ojai Visitors Bureau shutting down on October 31.

Now the Ojai Valley Inn is shut down until mid January. The Oaks will be closed for two months. One third of our city's revenue comes directly from the local hotel industry.

I am a local business owner and I should have been at that meeting in June. Im told not a single business owner spoke up, and we instead let our city's finances become governed by a tiny, self interested group.

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decisions were, and come together to find solutions that are genuinely in the communal best interest.

"Ojai First" should mean just that. Suppressing local businesses, just to appease a few people who are already set up, is not putting 'Ojai First'. Putting Ojai first means supporting the local economy. Making sure bills get paid, and that people have a roof over their head.

I am saddened to hear about a local council member showing up at the Rancho yesterday and insisting there werent permits in place. In fact there were permits. As well as local young people selling their wares, to support their children.

When our representatives are so uninformed, and yet so committed to a short sighted agenda, its time to take a step back and reassess things.

I would like to encourage all business owners and local employees to join together and push back. Ojai is so much more than a few angry anti-tourist zealots. We are a community, which largely relies on tourism to keep the ball rolling, keep doors open, and keep this Ojai train chuggin' along.

Like Comment Share

You, Gillian McManus, Cindy Pitou Burton and 221 others

4 Shares

Ray Powers Though I partially agree with you Alex, I don't think you're editorial is completely informed. It wasn't a handful of "angry anti-tourist zealots" that objected to the OTID. It was dozens and dozens of people speaking up about the need for balance in ... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

52

[Hide 19 Replies](#)

Lyn Summer "dozens and dozens of people .." and hundreds of citizens who voiced their opinion by way of our petition.

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

11

Sara Lawrence TOTALLY agree **Ray Powers**, "The Thomas Fire is an opportunity to reassess the city's economic design, the building codes, the emergency preparedness procedures and disaster relief to assist businesses impacted by the loss of customers." And I would add, most fervantly, water conservation practices (see Conor Jones recent info).

Like · Reply · 1w

7

Michael Haley 600 people signed an anti OTID referendum in less than two weeks. That is not a small group of people.

Like · Reply · 1w

2

Michael Haley another problem with tourism is that it pays so little for most workers that it vastly contributes to the inability of so many to afford housing in Ojai. Ojai has a lot of jobs due to it---at least 1500 people drive in to work from out of town every da... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

5

Vanessa Keating what sort of health care? Assisted living? Hospitals? Rehabs?

Like · Reply · 1w

Mary Nelson Alex, not a small group of people, tourism is a problem world wide and people are trying to figure out how to address it.

Like · Reply · 1w

6

Ann Crowley Water conservation so important, especially when we are told to clean up our properties using water sprays! It would be easier if we were able to do that, but imagine what would happen if everyone did it: nothing left to flush the toilets.

Like · Reply · 1w

Alex Bury Ray, I appreciate your response and I get your point.

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Like · Reply · 1w · Edited 7

Michael Haley Alex Bury that is totally unfair, and in any case most of the money in Ojai does not come from tourism...tourism money goes mostly to 1% ers like most of our economy. There are a handful of business owners, many of whom are apparently not doing well as... See More

Like · Reply · 1w 4

Alex Bury Sorry, its not unfair at all. 1

Alex Bury Ill add that I am rooting for Ray and hoping he makes a full and quick recovery here. 100% 1

Michael Haley it's totally unfair and is the kind of asinine personal attack that keeps anything from ever getting resolved around here and you know it, that is why you are doing it...make it about Ray personally and try to make him look bad as a way of winning an a... See More 2

Alex Bury I agree personaly attacks suck. However, I dont regret pointing out the connection. We are one community with one economy. We are all lucky to be here and be a part of it. 1

Camille Chandler Jurado Alex Bury thanks for starting with positivity! 2

Camille Chandler Jurado Michael Haley yes people!! effective dialogue!! Let's be progressive...what's the PLAN?!?! 1

Cláudia Malafaia de Figueiredo Alex Bury , I'm new to this discussion. You got my attention in your post. You totally lost my attention with your unkind calling out of Ray. Harsh, man. Not a productive way to make a point. You lost my ears. 3

Camille Chandler Jurado Cláudia Malafaia de Figueiredo well put! 1

Cynthia Warner Weirick Well stated. 6d

Janis Cash Alex, I was trying to follow this discussion logically and objectively until your last comment. You have now lost all credibility with your toxic and mean-spirited comment directed toward Ray, and he is not asking your precious tourist business-oriented community for shit. You owe him a serious apology and heart-felt amends. 2d

Write a reply...

Lyn Summer You have egregiously mischaracterized the situation and the people who were involved in the OTID issue, Mr. Bury. For starters, *not one* of us is an "angry, anti-tourist zealot," and we are not a "tiny, self interested group." Every one of us is foc... See More 12

Michael Haley it was actually the business owners who dropped the OTID. They had division within themselves, and also did not want to be controlled by the citizens. The problem with that is that their business has so much impact on the community people are never goi... See More 4

Kristi Marie Jones Responsible is not dismantling the

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about that there was no compromise and was a complete inhalation of what those 600 distain...be honest and about what those 600 did ...completely selfish

Like · Reply · 1w 2

Michael W Shanahan it was the sponsors of the OTID who rejected all compromise, and cancelled the program when they couldn't have it all their way. demonizing those who seek to achieve a better balance and municipal coping strategies with tourism will not solve the problems. scapegoating never does.

Like · Reply · 1w 3

Write a reply...

Alex Bury Thanks for calling me misinformed, Ray.

I spoke in front of Steve Bennett at the government center prior to the June meeting. The Ojai First crowd was there.... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited 4

Nicholas Franklin He didn't.

Like · Reply · 1w

Ray Powers I didn't say you were misinformed. I said you weren't completely informed. Meaning some of what you say is accurate yet you don't have or didn't mention all of the information. No, I wasn't at the first meeting, yet I was at all the council meetings a... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited 12

Jessica Conahey Did you even read what he wrote, or...

Like · Reply · 1w 1

Ray Powers **Jessica Conahey**, Do you have something you'd like to contribute to the conversation?

Like · Reply · 1w 2

Vanessa Keating I do agree with Jessica and Nicholas - if being called out for being misinformed is all Alex saw from what you wrote Ray, he may want to go back and re-read it.

This comment has sparked a marvelous dialog which is greatly needed.... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w 5

Camille Chandler Jurado Vanessa Keating for mayor!! 😄😄

Like · Reply · 1w 1

Write a reply...

Robin Schwartzburd I'm not saying we don't need tourists dollars.

It is important to understand that tourism is the first place you see a withdrawal in spending in a crisis or recession. We need to be really looking at this issue.

Like · Reply · 1w 8

Mimi Davis If you guys love Ojai so much, please communicate instead of pointing fingers...seat down together and brainstorm to make Ojai the best it can be...Namaste

Like · Reply · 1w 16

Michael Haley I would love to do that. I have been trying to do that since I got here and find it very difficult. Every conversation gets turned into insults and little substantive gets discussed.

Having said that, I am going to stop on this thread for now. Now is... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w 5

Michael Haley **Mimi Davis** see what I mean? I hadn't read the rest of the thread yet and see that it broke down into insults already. Very frustrating to me.

Like · Reply · 1w 2

Cláudia Malafaia de Figueiredo Michael Haley , for all that's worth, for a newbie in these conversations, like me,

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
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 **Mimi Davis** [Michael Haley](#) I was evacuated for 20 days and help at the shelter on the fairgrounds. There I met Nancy a music promoter. We are putting together a non profit concert on Jan 28 to the benefit of non insured people from the Thomas fire . Website is up ... [See More](#)

SoCalStrong

ConcertForTheThomasFire
SOCALSTRONGCONCERT.COM


Like · Reply · 1w

 **Michael Haley** [Cláudia Malafaia de Figueiredo](#) thanks Claudia I appreciate that.

Like · Reply · 1w


 **Michael Haley** [Mimi Davis](#) I will try and make it. May be out of town with my wife's business on that date, however.

Like · Reply · 1w

 **Mimi Davis** Thanks, I am in charge of selling tickets and collecting goods for a silence auction,. If by any chance you can share or network, that would be awesome. Namaste


Like · Reply · 1w

 Write a reply...

 **Nigel Chisholm** Alex, I also believe that you are misinformed on a number of issues. My feelings on this topic are well known and I did speak at the County Supervisors meeting to address the topic at hand. Did you see me? I took up lots of their time. ... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited


Hide 14 Replies

 **Alex Bury** Hi Nigel! I certainly do remember your speech. And please know I respect your position as a local business owner.... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w


 **Lyn Summer** ???

Like · Reply · 1w

 **Nigel Chisholm** [Alex](#), your memory is sorely lacking. What I actually said is that if your business plan was based solely on the tourist dollar then you are at the mercy of the economy and that you should probably come up with a new business plan.


Further, I said pla... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

 **Alex Bury** I stand by every word. Dont hold your breath for that apology.


Post up the record since you are so confident.

Like · Reply · 1w

 **Nigel Chisholm** [Alex](#), you can stand for whatever you want but when the tide comes in that sand under your feet disappears.

To be clear; you are the one making an outlandish claim. It is not my responsibility to prove that your idiotic and inaccurate statements are f... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

 **Brittani Harn** To satisfy my own curiosity where would I find these records?



Like · Reply · 1w

 **Nigel Chisholm**
http://ventura.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=67...
















3:54:22 or somewhere close. ... [See More](#)

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VENTURA.GRANICUS.COM

Like · Reply · 1w

1



Alex Bury Nigel, I'll grant you that I should not have claimed a verbatim recollection of the wording.... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w



Nigel Chisholm Alex, you are a messed up individual.

I provided the video and proved that what you said is not only incorrect but way out of line. You did, in fact, not only make an outlandish claim but lied about it. Now you claim to be accurate!... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

4



Alex Bury I claimed you said that tourist based businesses had no right to make their money here.

In fact you said "people who have their business set up for tourists, I suggest they find a different business model."... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w



Nigel Chisholm Alex, your words stand for themselves. You keep banging on the same drum and with every beat you are just looking worse. You have zero credibility on this and are simply fighting to retain your integrity. I get it but it's a fruitless task.

I've prov... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

1



Brittani Harn Alex Bury he's just saying that the business model for such a small town like ours should ideally be both tourist *and* local customer based. Sure in larger cities go for singling out the tourist, the demographics can accommodate - but here it can choke up the local economy because we are so small.

Like · Reply · 1w

4



Camille Chandler Jurado Nigel Chisholm he's just jealous!! Let him be! 😊 thank you for everything you do Nigel to make Ojai a little funner for the locals!!! This town would be DEAD without you!! Thank you for bringing in your worldly knowledge and wisdom! You kick ass on so many levels.

Like · Reply · 1w

3



Timothy Pike Keali'i Flournoy Alex Bury, have you ever been into The Vine? It's mostly locals.

Like · Reply · 4d

1



Write a reply...



Kevin Schmidt It was the fire, and not a lack of advertising that those hotels chose to close, and why business is bad in Ojai right now. Let's be clear about that fact. Of course, what Bill did is an entirely separate issue.

Like · Reply · 1w

8

[Hide 12 Replies](#)



Lyn Summer yes

Like · Reply · 1w



Mimi Davis Without saying the media blasting about how bad the air quality is, frankly would you want to come and relax in Ojai right now with your family?

Like · Reply · 1w

5



Kevin Schmidt Alex seems to think we can solve that problem with more advertising.

Like · Reply · 1w



Alex Bury Wrong. There was a clearly evident downturn in local revenue before the fire.

Next!

Like · Reply · 1w

3

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Like · Reply · 1w

Lyn Summer Yes, I would like to know the same thing. Just like some business owners tried to convince us that banning STRs destroyed their revenue base.

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

2

Alex Bury Kevin Schmidt

Ill pull up articles from local papers if I need to, and testaments from local business owners.... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

4

Kevin Schmidt You're the one doing the gas lighting. Project much?

Like · Reply · 1w

1

Kevin Schmidt By the way, all of your whining won't change the fact that the whole community was involved in this discussion months ago and came to a decision. The time to speak out was back then, not now. Today we face a different issue, which was not caused by that decision.

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

3

Alex Bury Kevin Schmidt Glad to hear your bills are paid Kevin!

Unfortunately not everyone is as lucky.

Like · Reply · 1w

Kevin Schmidt What the hell are you talking about? Don't try to dishonestly put words into my mouth that I did not say, in a desperate attempt to win an argument you should have never started. My bills have nothing to do with your bullshit post, or your lack of respect for the decisions made by this entire community.

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

4

Lawrence Terry Wheeler Soren Mitchell wondered where you were. How do chemtrails compare to two weeks of smoke and ash?

Like · Reply · 1w

2

Write a reply...

Mason Cooper Simple thought on this thread of comment: Fact is currently there is very low volume of customers due to the fire/circumstances - both no current tourism as well as locals still not all having returned to town (air quality and other personal reasons).... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

15

Deborah Herron Locals Discount how about that? I have been to small seasonal tourist towns and everyone of them have local discounts so when it's off season the businesses Stay in business... just a wild thought ...

Like · Reply · 1w

11

Sara Lawrence Deborah Herron, no shit. This needs to be an Ojai thing.

Like · Reply · 1w

1

[View more replies](#)

Write a reply...

Dawn Proctor Preach friend!! ❤️ ps we need to climb!!

Like · Reply · 1w

1

Alex Bury Let me know! We should probably invest in some ash colored climbing attire.

Like · Reply · 1w

2

Lyn Summer and pastel colored chalk

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

1

Write a reply...

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Alex Bury Thank you! This is what Im talking about.
Like · Reply · 1w

Lisa July Lynch Alex Bury sales have been down since June and I'm not the only one.
Like · Reply · 1w

[View more replies](#)

Write a reply...

Kytriena Jenalle Payseno Many local residents have expressed concern for the rising prices in Ojai for a long time. Personally I feel that for the economy to survive our community needs to work together to find a balance. It is true several friends have been laid off due to th... [See More](#)
Like · Reply · 1w

Alex Bury Hope is good. So is balance. 👍
Like · Reply · 1w

Lyn Summer When was ".this town .. a ghost town, literally depressed with the desolate .." [Kytriena Jenalle Payseno?](#)
Like · Reply · 1w

Write a reply...

Lyn Summer Whose business was down before the fire and why? Was it cyclical? Was it the miserable heat and drought of this past summer? Was it because we have so many similar shops, restaurants, coffee purveyors, tasting rooms and wineries? Was it because whatever you are selling is now being bought on Amazon???

Like · Reply · 1w
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Lisa July Lynch As far as I know there is only one baby consignment / new store in town.
Like · Reply · 1w

Lyn Summer Lisa July Lynch I know, and I love your store.
Like · Reply · 1w

Lisa July Lynch Lyn thank you ❤️
Like · Reply · 1w

Kristi Marie Jones Everything in the world is sold on Amazon.... what it with this idea there should only be ONE of any kind of store ..this lack and mentality runs this town
Like · Reply · 1w

Lisa July Lynch Kristi is anyone saying there should only be one kind of store? Also many stores in Ojai sell baby items. I'm not the only one for instance.
Like · Reply · 1w

Kristi Marie Jones I hear it all the time... i personally don't believe in that mentality ..and I am not in the baby market so I don't know to speak to that ...i personally bekeive in a healthy market where there is competitors who support each other to create a healthy economy
Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

Lisa July Lynch Kristi and I agree but we are also not a huge town with a huge need. We will see what the new phase brings.
Like · Reply · 1w

Kristi Marie Jones I understand ...i am curious how this will shake out...i will say I don't open a brick and mortar due to the high cost of a decent space ...this has got to change ❤️
Like · Reply · 1w

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tell you mine is not. And it's a struggle.

Like · Reply · 1w

1



Kristi Marie Jones Yeahwith ya ...feel ya ...which is why I make the best of every Sunday farmers market...

Like · Reply · 1w

1



Anne Weblemoe Lucido Having been a business owner in Ojai for 25 years, our business always did have cycles. Summer was always pretty slow. It is hot and not a lot of tourists want to come to where it is so hot. We always picked up in September and December was our busiest... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

5



Michael Haley which store is yours, I will come and buy something...unless it is a baby store:)....

Like · Reply · 1w

3



Michael Haley and I appreciate your comments

Like · Reply · 1w

2



Anne Weblemoe Lucido We own Islandoutfitters on Linden Ave. in Carpinteria.

Like · Reply · 1w

4



Michael Haley thanks

Like · Reply · 1w



Melissa Halsey **Anne Weblemoe Lucido** -I love your store... Didn't you all used to own the music store that was in the arcade here in Ojai ? I loved that store too! ❤️

Like · Reply · 6d

2



Anne Weblemoe Lucido Thank you! Yes we owned Blue Sky Music for 25 Years and we have been here in Carp for 10.

Like · Reply · 6d

3



Write a reply...



Gregg Myers i'm new here and, in perhaps every good way, i suppose i always will be

yet, small towns have always been of fascination to me, both personally, as well as professionally... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

9



Michael Haley totally agree, thanks for your insight..Ojai's inner spirit, what people call the soul of Ojai, is spiritual, its beauty, and people come here to heal and to connect in community. I think the problem we are starting to see is an overlay of mass marketed tourism that does not fit the soul of Ojai. Among other things.

Like · Reply · 1w

1



Soren Mitchell Sounds like a strang city creation job in AZ, funded by Goldman, familial relationship models, etc. would be interested to hear more. Thx for sharing.

Like · Reply · 1w

2

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Write a reply...



LeAnne Daly I'm a local and I shopped, drank and ate out more than I have in years because this weekend was finally bearable in this town.

Like · Reply · 1w

4



Jewelry Sandollar Could you post a pic of the "Stupid hipster hats"... you see I wear hats everyday. I have a sensitivity to sunlight and I also have had too many facial sunburns....am I being mistaken for a tourist when I wear my hat???

Like · Reply · 1w

9



Lisa Braithwaite

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TENOR

Like · Reply · 1w

2

Write a reply...



Reggie Wood Some people can only see these issues in black or white. Most often only seeing enough to justify their judgements and support their fear and negative emotions. Ojai'ns like myself constantly try to point out the virtue of the more middle ways as well ... See More

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

3



Kevin Schmidt So what are you doing with all of those patients?
I see your attitude towards open mindedness is hypocritically closed to groups you don't like. STRs will never be legal in Ojai.

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

1



Reggie Wood Kevin Schmidt case in point.

Like · Reply · 1w



Kevin Schmidt Reggie Wood Yes, you are a case in point. You're still whining because you are in the minority over the STR issue.

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

2



Reggie Wood Kevin Schmidt on that issue I am not all the way for it or all the way against it. Comprendo

Like · Reply · 1w



Kevin Schmidt Then you have changed your mind.

Like · Reply · 1w

1



Reggie Wood Kevin Schmidt the only position I have ever taken has been to stand against the total ban mentality. You can make of that what you will.

Like · Reply · 1w



Nan Wolf Kevin Schmidt Please tell more. I smell a dead rat.

Like · Reply · 4d

Write a reply...



John Wells
https://www.facebook.com/NativeDailyNetwork/videos/763637640495597/?hc_ref=ARQTOXAVj9-Fdae0uu_j4BQmzcDE4UOSga7EkEwXm0BVizKISqZmb7piQ5Oz66JSIJE THE indigenous, the elders, true originals, remember the BREATH UNIVERSAL MIND / been here over 10,000 yrs, not satanist baby eatn dna rejects of london, san francisco , hollywood, dc



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
Native Daily Network was live. December 18 at 5:56am · [Follow](#)

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
 **Mimi Davis** Can we just all get along ❤️❤️ 3

Like · Reply · 1w


 **Sara Lawrence** Can someone explain to me why they have closed the Oaks? Air quality interfering with the healthy brand? Or what?

Like · Reply · 1w 1


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 **Brittani Harn** Their rep said their insurance company said they weren't healthy/safe to operate. They didn't specify.

Like · Reply · 1w 3

 **Robin Schwartzburd** Sounds unrelated to the fire. I saw two people post that they hadn't been paid in two months. If what they're saying is true, then they've been having problems for a while


Like · Reply · 1w 2

 **Brittani Harn** The rep that mentioned it was due to insurance seemed blindsided by questions of firing/laying off the staff and closing for a period of time when it was first brought up to them on Facebook (as in they initially didn't appear to know it was going on) then shortly after came the explanation about their insurance company.


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 **Robin Schwartzburd** Brittani Harn since they didn't burn down, I'm not understanding why they're having insurance problems?


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 **Brittani Harn** Nor am I, especially since other businesses don't seem to be having the same issues. But I don't know the specifics of their insurance policy.


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 **Michael Taylor** The management has changed, and closure was in the works before the fire. When the fire happened it just hastened the decision. Obviously they had some cancellations and chose not to incur the expense of staying open with no clientele. From what I hear... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w 2

 **Robin Schwartzburd** They could have handled it a lot more gracefully


Like · Reply · 1w 3

 **Sara Lawrence** Very unfortunate. It seems Ojai is at a crossroads. Time to recalculate.

Like · Reply · 1w 1

 **Brittani Harn** Robin Schwartzburd I definitely agree there.



Like · Reply · 1w 1

 **Robin Schwartzburd** Not a good way to start a new endeavor. Small town.
















Like · Reply · 1w 2

Brittani Harn Michael Taylor I'm not familiar with their

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treatments or spa treatments available without booking rooms?
How is it set up now? Do you have to book both together?

Like · Reply · 1w

Michael Taylor Brittani Harn Sorry, all I know is what I posted

Like · Reply · 1w

Brittani Harn Michael Taylor no worries, I was just mildly curious.

Like · Reply · 1w

Write a reply...

Nancy Mauthe for local business that is all they have, we come and live in Camarillo, many people come to Ojai and are not from L.A.!

Like · Reply · 1w

3

Lesley Laine The answers will only present themselves when everyone comes to the table to seek middle ground.

Like · Reply · 1w

3

Adam Fischer good luck with that 😊

Like · Reply · 1w

1

Camille Chandler Jurado Town meeting??? Shall we??? Do we dare?? Yes I'm in. I just wanna watch!!! 😊

Like · Reply · 1w

Write a reply...

Dennis Connor Yes and if we can only get rid of those pesky yurts!! Then our lives will be better!

Like · Reply · 1w

11

Kytriena Jenalle Payseno I feel ya;*(

Like · Reply · 1w

Write a reply...

Kristi Marie Jones 600 people do not represent the whole of ojai .. that is not even 10% ...so I do hope this 600 people have well placed jobs and a home .. due to there own self interests many will surely suffer ...i wish you 600 a happy holiday ...

Like · Reply · 1w

5

Mary Nelson Kristi there were many merchants (myself included) who did not want to continue OTID.

Like · Reply · 6d

2

Write a reply...

Burton Lang Give every tourist a bag of seeds. Engage. Enlist. In stewardship of their world.

Like · Reply · 1w

1

Kristi Marie Jones And I am sure they would love it ...peole seam to not realize ...the tourist come here for the nature ... They LOVE the nature and may would love to be a part of the rebirth

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

2

Lanny Kaufer Ojai just got a huge dose of free publicity. Maybe not the kind wanted but some say any publicity is good publicity. Now it's up to local businesses and entrepreneurs to schedule events and otherwise promote their businesses, reminding the world that much of what makes Ojai Ojai is still here, including the undefinable spirit of the community.

Like · Reply · 1w

27

Kristi Marie Jones Word

Like · Reply · 1w

1

Domlin Juul Totally agreed, I was thinking just yesterday that this advertizing campaign would be a good thing to

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
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
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
See more

- 


Eric Werbalowsky "Burning is done, now it's time for fun!" you can use that, my gift...

Like · Reply · 1w 3
- 



Kristi Marie Jones Domlin Juul...ask those 600 ...if that would be to there liking ...wink wink

Like · Reply · 1w 2
- 


Lanny Kaufer **Eric Werbalowsky** I was thinking the bars could adopt this slogan: "When life gives you fire, make firewater." And they can use that one, too, free of charge. Are you listening, **Nigel Chisholm**?

Like · Reply · 1w 2
- 


Nigel Chisholm Lanny, we already sell Fireball whisky!

Like · Reply · 1w 5
-  Write a reply...
- 


Domlin Juul Totally agreed, I was thinking just yesterday that this advertizing campaign would be a good thing to approve. Thank you.

Like · Reply · 1w 1
- 


Rob Tyzzer I hope when the tourists return our little land of misfit toys doesn't get drowned out by the noise again.

Like · Reply · 1w 2
- 


Bonnie Bishop Here here 👍

Like · Reply · 1w 2
- 


Michael W Shanahan bottom line, the withdrawal of the OTID proposal by its sponsors does not mean that tourist advertising will stop. It merely means it won't be coordinated through a central body. Anyone is free to continue to advertise, and those who contributed to t... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w 22
- 



Alan Barker Yes but the sad thing is that the OTID could have been an organizing entity for attracting the kind of tourists that benefit Ojai.

Like · Reply · 4d
- 


Michael W Shanahan agreed, with a little collaboration and judgment

Like · Reply · 4d
- 


Alan Barker I think a lot of people still buy in to the false story that the OTID was paid for by residents. The tourists paid for it themselves by way of an additional 1% on the Transient Occupancy Tax.

Like · Reply · 4d
-  Write a reply...
- 


Laura Fredrickson Powerful time to initiate the power of Social Media. Especially with all of the attention from the fires.

Like · Reply · 1w 4
- 

John Wells i get lots offending comments, frm many who have satanic shirts, n pics all over their fb, strange n childish, dangerous bc their tryn infiltrate dc, hollywood, media for last 100 yrs more n more everyday, but webs shining a very bright lite on the devil n he doesnt like light

Like · Reply · 1w
- 

Rebecca Aguilar-Foster Tourism is good and all, but there is a point where it becomes too much. And it's reached that point here a lot lately. Before the fire obviously.



Like · Reply · 1w · Edited 8
- 

Michael Haley that is the whole point, somehow that seems hard for some to understand...that would apply to almost any business for the record. If we start putting oil wells in everyone's back yards that would be a problem too.
















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 **Mason Cooper** I wonder when people say there's too much tourism... if hotel rooms are maxed out that is a fairly finite number of people/families visiting. Plus guests of residents of course. (I'm not counting STR's which are not allowed I believe in Ojai proper).... [See More](#)


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3

 **Michael Haley** the problem is too rapid of growth to the point that downtown got too crowded for a lot of people, as our mayor said, he has lived downtown 45 years and it is to the point that when he goes downtown 60-70% of the people he sees are visitors, which has ... [See More](#)


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6

 **Reggie Wood** Why are so many motivated to control Ojai's path? Ojai is not broken and does not need fixing. Pay attention to what has made Ojai a desirable place and the history that brought us here. Most of the time people issuing control do not get the results they were expecting. Especially these people recently moved here bringing there negative experience with them.

Like · Reply · 1w

3

 **Michael Haley** tell that to the people who tried to initiate a seven million dollar new advertising campaign--why are they trying to control Ojai?

Like · Reply · 1w


6

 **Reggie Wood** **Michael Haley** controlling and promoting are two different things.

Like · Reply · 1w


 **Vickie Carlton-Byrne** Not really.

Like · Reply · 1w

 **Reggie Wood** **Vickie Carlton-Byrne** okay I say come up here to vista point and watch the sunset. You say no one is allowed to up on visit point. Completely different but hard for control types to understand.

Like · Reply · 1w

 Write a reply...

 **Michael Haley** It is not about even tourism or not, it really is about losing the local community and how do we remain local in the face of increasing amounts of constant visitors.

Like · Reply · 1w

2

[Hide 11 Replies](#)


 **Rob Tyzzer** reopening the theatre would be a good step

Like · Reply · 1w


1

 **Michael Haley** Rob Tyzzer it's gonna happen

Like · Reply · 1w


 **Mason Cooper** Will "locals" actually go to the restaurants en masse Monday through thursday? And purchase form the retail outlets here? clothing stores, furniture stores, thrift stores, artists and artisans? That would be wonderful. Locals feeling like visitors a... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

 **Mason Cooper** btw - looks like the majority of the posts here have people in agreement - although on FB type discussions they seem like there are opposing points of views - but the 'gray area' is where the answers can start to come together. I appreciated all the t... [See More](#)


Like · Reply · 1w

1


 **Michael Haley** Mason, you have to remember that it is about growth--not about doing away with all visitors, or making the numbers any less than they are now. Balance, not letting it grow too much. You have jumped to an extreme position, positing only locals downtown ... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

4


 **Mason Cooper** ahh - healthy point of discussion - thanks for that. I do get that... how many wine/beer/etc places are needed other than for growth of tourism... that makes

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Like · Reply · 1w

Michael Haley Mason Cooper thank you 1

Like · Reply · 1w

Koert DuBois Tourism helps support the community. Tourism growth supports investors.

As an outsider from Ventura, I don't see anyone objecting to tourism but I do see a lot of heated arguments regarding the growth of tourism.... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w 2

Michael Haley Koert DuBois great comment, 100% agree...my impression is that most in Ojai do not understand the economic environment we find ourselves in, so when we start talking about limiting growth in tourism they think we mean get rid of it. No it means avoiding the problems that will come with unhindered growth--really similar problems that you would have with any type of business.

Like · Reply · 1w 4

Koert DuBois Yeah, equating it to a business is very perceptive. Kind of like a restaurant that isn't making any profits, where the owners believe that if they just multiplied the size of their business that it would all work out.... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w 3

Mason Cooper **Michael Haley** this part of the discussion with you and koert has enlightened my thinking. Better understanding of the nuances here. I think it's a matter of the proverbial "loud voices" sometimes. As there are those that run to the blanket "tourists... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited 1

John Wells wait till trains completed 2

Like · Reply · 1w

Skyla Walton Thank you everyone for sharing your perspective. This fire, for us has brought us closer to ojai than ever. I've definitely been guilty of shopping on amazon more than I should, but after this experience I feel so connected to my town and will be making as many of my purchases locally as I can ❤️

Like · Reply · 1w 8

Dulanie Ellis Be nice. There are good people on all sides of this issue. We now have a challenging opportunity to carefully reshape how we rebuild our houses for fire ... and how we open our arms to visitors. Housing and community are interlinked.

Like · Reply · 1w 5

Christine Golden Perhaps someone can uncover facts regarding the councilperson showing up and insisting there were no permits in place. I heard something different - that the Council person was called by several persons upset that there were solicitors from the Rancho ... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited 3

Kellie Bolton There was no waving down of motorists. That's ridiculous. I was on site for 12 hours.

Like · Reply · 1w 5

Saunie D Krewson Who calls a city council for traffic? I am impressed that he ran out there, and...well, I'm not sure he actually did anything other than get an impressive video of himself. But now on if I see any public nuisance I'm definitely going to call him and I expect the same kind of immediate jump in the car kind of reaction.

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

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Mason Cooper his actions, taking pictures from himself standing in the street, was not a professional action that respected his

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- Like · Reply · 1w 3

 **Mason Cooper** that 'guy' owns the place and has been harassed by "Bill" - nothing new. Why didn't Bill park his car in a safer place and walk on and see what was going on - and try to have a conversation?


Like · Reply · 1w 1

 **Mason Cooper** Not needing to get into this further. Bill can handle the followup how he wants - but this "guy" has opened all his hotel doors to the firefighters and people who've lost houses. He promotes and supports many other establishments in town. and this ev... [See More](#)


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 **Alan Barker** Thank you Alex for a clear description of the situation. Ojai is a tourist destination and it always has been. As agriculture becomes less viable due to lack of water and pest invasions tourism becomes an even more important part of our economy. Tho... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w 8


 **Kali Kealoha Coultas** Agriculture isn't less viable, old farming practices are. Some farming practices are working just fine.

Like · Reply · 4d 5

 **Risa Horowitz** Especially traditional farming practices.

Like · Reply · 4d


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 **Mare Woggon** Hey, get used to living in OUR town.... WE lived here a long time w/o tourism.


Like · Reply · 1w 1

 **Mariana Schulze** Alex Bury look what you've done 👍👏😄


Like · Reply · 1w 3

 **Shylah Ray** Well said 2


Like · Reply · 1w

 **Steven Giese** Must tourist jobs do not pay a living wage. Sad but true.

Like · Reply · 1w 6


 **Brittani Harn** Which is a little on the weird side because it seems like a lot of money goes in from the customer side - then again I'm not familiar with all the overhead and fees/licencing involved.


Like · Reply · 1w

 **Steven Giese** Brittani Harn the shop owners make a living wage but most of their employees do not.

Like · Reply · 1w 2


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 **John Wells** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJhrZM2LxrU&feature=youtu.be>




CalFires 9/11 ~ The Shift with Jamie Lee of Apliantruth
My friend Doug McKenty, of The Shift, and I...
YOUTUBE.COM

Like · Reply · 1w 1

 **Kristi Marie Jones** thank you best info yet on all this



Like · Reply · 1w 1

 **John Wells** Kristi Marie Jones bones vanished ?!
















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John Wells watch vid 1
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John Wells s the direct energy weapon calif fires burns so hot, melts ppl, cars, tubs all ! For families of dozens missing in California wildfires, 'it's emotional ...
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For families of dozens missing in California wildfires, 'it's emotional...

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Write a reply...

Koert DuBois Tough times call for desperate measures.
It's time for rebuilding as a community and not for thinking about ourselves. For residents who have other housing options, even if they are uncomfortable options, this is the perfect time to get out of town an... See More
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Alan Barker **Koert DuBois** That's known as a "straw man" argument in the form of satire, a cheap shot in debating techniques. Koert, why don't you attend to your own community. We don't need your carping remarks, especially now. 6
Like · Reply · 1w

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Koert DuBois Thanks for the commentary Alan but I'm sure you're more concerned with advocating for tourist accommodations than you are in having a reasonable discussion about the impacts of tourism on a community with a real housing crisis. 3
Like · Reply · 1w

Alan Barker Do you consider your snide post "reasonable discussion?"
Like · Reply · 1w

Koert DuBois I think satire can be a valuable communication tool and didn't think my comment was at all snide-like.
Although I think the last thing you want to do is participate in a reasonable calm discussion, If you do want to, one's happening right here... See More
Like · Reply · 1w

Alan Barker So now you sink to an ad hominem attack on me, What's your game Koert? Who do you represent?
Like · Reply · 1w

Koert DuBois **Congrats**, you've moved even further away from the reasonable discussion regarding tourism.
Like · Reply · 1w

Alan Barker That's so lame Koert, you're trying to make it about me because you have no argument. Did you read the post I made to this thread? 1
Like · Reply · 1w

Koert DuBois Yes, it sounds like you believe that because agriculture is a tough business, increased tourism is the only other option, expansion of tourism is inevitable and that Ojai residents may as well lay down and go with the flow.
I don't agree that it's a b... See More
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Alan Barker My motivation is for Ojai to have a vibrant

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... could have been an integral and constructive part of that econ... See More

Like · Reply · 1w

Koert DuBois Alan, all over the world communities are bemoaning the gentrification and displacement of residents that comes with increased tourism and specifically vacation rentals.

I suppose you could say that I have a financial interest in the future of Ojai. We... See More



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Let us connect you with your own local...
OJAIFARMSTAND.COM

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Alan Barker **Koert DuBois** Are you conflating tourism with gentrification? As a real estate appraiser you know better. You are right that the market contained itself before Airbnb (and Homeaway) but what you consistently fail to acknowledge is that it contained itself under the original VRBO model which operated for nearly ten years without negative impact. Unfortunately Homeaway bought VRBO and scuttled that model.

Like · Reply · 1w

Koert DuBois It's not just me. Do a search on tourism, airbnb, vacation rentals, and gentrification and you'll find a wide array of scholarly articles, news reports, and opinion pieces that link tourism, vacation rentals, and community-destroying gentrification.

V... See More

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Alan Barker You are dead wrong about VRBO. It was self-limiting because all transactions were "by owner" which made it unappealing to investors and realtor management. It was an entirely different model. Airbnb changed that by inserting itself in the middle of ... See More

Like · Reply · 1w

Koert DuBois Sorry to disagree, but I was around and paying close attention when the home-swapping services, Craigslist ads, and TripAdvisor recommendations started to be supplanted by VRBO listings.

But that was in the mid-to-late 90's and the release of the iPh... See More

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

Alan Barker VRBO was literally Vacation Rentals By Owner, not manager, not realtor, not third-party online entities. All transactions were done by owners, not third parties. This facilitated the rentals primarily of second homes that stood empty most of the time... See More

Like · Reply · 1w

Koert DuBois VRBO never removed a "by owner" requirement - there never was one. My first exposure to VRBO was a five-person partnership that owned a bunch (I don't know how many, but more than four) of rental properties. Prior to VRBO they used them mostly for itin... See More

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

Alan Barker Not so **Koert DuBois**, your experience with VRBO was probably after it was taken over by Homeaway and the "by owner" element was removed. The original VRBO did not allow third-party management. Multiple owners and trust owned properties were accepted.... See More

Like · Reply · 1w



Koert DuBois I first became aware of VRBO and started following it in the mid-90's when they were founded. At first I thought it was a pretty great idea, similar to home-swapping but for cash.

It wasn't a big deal because people weren't in the habit of finding vac... See More
















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know it. There were virtually no "party houses" prior to Airbnb and Homeaway. Regarding impact on neighborhoods you have to consider the positive impact... [See More](#)

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Koert DuBois Ironically, a couple hours ago the guy who owns the vacation rental across the street from us just started framing in some sort of un-permitted enclosure on the front of his already neglected property. But I realize that's a single instance and doesn't... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 6d

Alan Barker Koert DuBois Vacation rentals in your neighborhood are primarily managed primarily by realtors and always have been. I looked at homes in your area in 2002. The realtor made it a selling point that they would manage rentals for me. It was clear that... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 6d

Elizabeth Haffner I sent you a private message

Like · Reply · 1w

Michele Louise Hunter I am very happy to support and shop local however not on a vacation (tourist) spending budget. I would like consideration to the locals with their every day spending interests and budget. Please have more products available at reasonable costs that woul... [See More](#)

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Mason Cooper just a thought - local businesses can offer more affordable items if locals would shop here. restaurant prices are the same as those in ventura, carp, camarillo, etc... but Mond-Thurs they seem awfully empty... Rain's dept store has decent prices (r... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

Michele Louise Hunter That's because we have gotten used to the attention being on the tourists. The hype, the cost and products. The real foundation of Ojai are the locals. Through thick or thin (as in right now) we are here. Locals offer stability and consistency. It is very unfortunate that the businesses are suffering. I know many of the owners and they work very hard. I only wish the focus could be more on locals and less on tourists.

Like · Reply · 1w

Kytriena Jenalle Payseno Several stores offer a locals discount, just ask them;*)

Like · Reply · 1w

Michele Louise Hunter That's a good point. Locals have to ask for a discount. Why? Shouldn't the marked price already be reasonable?

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

Kytriena Jenalle Payseno Not that easy, but I do know that at my work we always ask if you are, and when we started the locals discount we passed out over 1,000 cards to people

Like · Reply · 1w

Kytriena Jenalle Payseno I also believe a lot of cities do something similar...like Hawaii, the locals pay a different price then the tourists

Like · Reply · 1w

Michele Louise Hunter The logic behind that is; tourist \$\$ is considered first and foremost. Ojai has relied on the tourism \$\$ a long time and we have forgotten that tourism can change quickly if Ojai isn't popular, like right now. I know everyone will try to help out, I shopped this weekend downtown but there is no way the local economy will be able to match the past influx of tourist \$\$.

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Michael Haley Mason Cooper Rains is really expensive,

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Michael Haley [Mason Cooper](#) its kind of a catch 22, as you get more oriented on high spending tourists you lose locals, then landlords raise rents and it is impossible to go back down. Some downtown business owners have told me that the big weekend crowds followed by... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w 3
- 

Nancy Klimbal You are so right. Years ago we could afford to shop here. Now the prices are high and items cater more to tourists

Like · Reply · 1w
- 

Lesley Laine Several of the shops are very expensive. But ALOT of them have decent prices on excellent quality goods. I think it would be a very poor decision to reduce the quality of merchandise. If I want cheap crap, I'll drive to Target. I've bought the wide majority of my holiday gifts local this year. It is doable if you go and look!

Like · Reply · 1w 1
- 

Lesley Laine [Michael Haley](#) The rents are VERY high. I know a few avenue business owners. There are a small handful of landlords who control the rental rates. The reality is that in order to pay rent, business expenses etc. and still bring home enough to live on is very difficult if a retailer is offering low prices. It's math.

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited
- 

Radies Man Just keep supporting your local Amazon with Prime.

Like · Reply · 1w
- 

Lesley Laine [Radies Man](#) I tried and buy most of my gifts locally this year. However, when it came to my 23 year old son, I had to rely on online purchases. Nothing here for young guys. LOL

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited
- 

Mason Cooper [Michael Haley](#) well. Locals giving up on downtown or local places is a shame and their choice. They know there are fewer tourists during the week so that not a good reason. Seems people want options that busy business would bring but not the crowds o... [See More](#)

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- 

Michael Haley [Lesley Laine](#) and how is it that the rents get so high? [Koert](#) keeps trying to explain that, and so do I. When the landlords see big ad dollars like the OTID, lots of housing going over to hotel rooms, and a lot more foot traffic downtown, they raise ren... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited 3
- 

Radies Man [Lesley Laine](#) No @ojaistrong t-shirt? 😊

Like · Reply · 1w 1
- 

Lesley Laine [Radies Man](#) He lives in LA!!!! 🤔

Like · Reply · 1w
- 

Eric Lauderdale [Lesley Laine](#) Have you tried the skatepark?

Like · Reply · 1w
- 

Michael Haley [Mason](#) agreed, I shop downtown a lot, every day in fact, but I can understand what has happened for a lot of locals, it has changed so much and does not serve their needs that they got used to. Most of the clothing, almost all of it, is very trendy and ... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w 1
- 



Nancy Klimbal Ya know the bottom line is that we're all in this together and I'd like to think we would support our town as much as we can. I know I will

Like · Reply · 1w
- 
















Michael Haley [Mason](#) continued, I accidentally hit send. If Ojai said let's back off on tourist serving businesses for a while, investors would start opening local serving businesses and it would balance out.

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Mason Cooper [Michael Haley](#) didn't know that update. When did that happen? Awesome.

Like · Reply · 1w



Elizabeth Haffner [Michael Haley](#) if you don't like visitors or a visitor based economy why did you move to Ojai? Ojai has a visitor based economy since Charlie Chaplin started coming here in the 20's. The golf course at the Inn was born in like 1918. There are a lot of towns in California that are not visitor based economy's, perhaps you chose the wrong place to relocate

Like · Reply · 1w



Shannon Nelson [Elizabeth Haffner](#), ive lived in Ojai from 1949 to 2000, and yes Ojai has always had a tourist based economy;however it was more balanced in the past. We didnt have bumper to bumper traffic, stores totally focused on tourists rather than locals and an o... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w



Mason Cooper [Shannon Nelson](#) sorry. Had to laugh at the bumper to bumper comment. I think it contradictory that an Ojaian would be in such a rush that an extra 2 minutes driving through town on the worst day would be such a burden. I live downtown and have to dea... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w



Shannon Nelson [Mason Cooper](#), its not about getting through town faster....its about an environment that is peaceful rather than crowded. Its about preserving the beauty of Ojai rather than turning it into a fake town. Ojai has a history of its residents fighting to... [See More](#)

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Elizabeth Haffner 1- If you left in 2000, what are you worried about. 2- the traffic is because of pedestrians walking across the road every minute in the arcade. The people of Ojai have been complaining about traffic since the 1970's, I believe that is something that t... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w



Mason Cooper Great response! There is no traffic or crowding issue. Walk downtown at the night of "tourist weekends" and there are only handfults of people walking around. And there is always a parking spot to be had in the downtown area. We do have crosswalk and... [See More](#)

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Elizabeth Haffner [Shannon Nelson](#) no one want unfettered tourism. It's also not a brief moment in Fame. Visitors have been coming to the Valley for over 100 years. Great people come here. Some just visit and some move here. Ojai attracts amazing people.

Like · Reply · 1w



Elizabeth Haffner [Michael Haley](#) FYI, There has already been local push back against the mixed use living space that was proposed. Why, because it's not about tourism, it's about any development no matter how it serves the community. Ask the businesses completely geared ... [See More](#)

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Michael Haley [Elizabeth Haffner](#) Like I have said many times I am not against tourism, I am against the rapid expansion of it that some business people are pushing. Most of the people I have met here since I got here, and btw there is no way to know what a town is re... [See More](#)

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Elizabeth Haffner no body has been pushing a rapid expansion of tourism. They proposed using some of the TOT for what it was originally set up for but never has been. So they set up the OTID. That is over yet we're apparently still in crisis. And I'm sorry your insulted... [See More](#)

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Michael Haley The OTID started as over \$7 million in new advertising over ten years..that is a huge advertising

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putting foreign language ads on signs to help you are going to get literally millions of people becoming aware of your place.

Like · Reply · 1w

1

Michael Haley It was insulting by your saying I shouldn't have moved here, not by your disagreeing with me. And also by mentioning personal facts about me having made money in another location...it is not about me or anything personal about me, so that is another ch... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

2

Shannon Nelson Elizabeth Haffner you are really funny with your absolute statements...i left because i couldnt stand to watch what was happening to the town i lived in from birth. I still have interests in Ojai and i still have family there And i still hold out hope that once the people like you who see Ojai as a cash cow rather than home...will leave and make it a town for people who actually love and care about it.

Like · Reply · 1w

Michael Haley Just to finish the OTID comment, the kind of advertising the Chamber was about to embark on, the big OTID budget, wakes up all kinds of tour operators who are looking for new and different places to take people. And it is enormous, look at what has happened to other places who embarked on that kind of marketing. Take Yosemite for example.

Like · Reply · 1w

1

Michael Haley Elizabeth Haffner I'm not proposing to take business away from anyone. I am talking about businesses that have not even been built yet. Why is that so hard to get? We have about ten new proposed businesses going on in process, and all of them except W... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

2

Elizabeth Haffner Michael Haley I agree, new businesses should have diversity. I agree the chamber did a bad job running the Visitors Bureau. I still want to keep the 60% of my business that is made up of visitors so I don't go out of business and I'd like to increase local business that stays in town so we have mid week sales.

Like · Reply · 1w

1

Michael Haley exactly which according to some is the way it used to be, more or less

Like · Reply · 1w

Elizabeth Haffner Shannon Nelson I love this town and I'm staying to make it better. I believe in balance and compromise. 2 ideals that have been forgotten about in these debates.

Like · Reply · 1w

Elizabeth Haffner Michael Haley I don't believe in looking to the past or "how it used to be"

Like · Reply · 1w

Elizabeth Haffner Michael Haley I suggest you have a beer with my husband **Jeremy Haffner** and myself to discuss these matters in person instead of a Facebook dialogue. He sent you an invite via messenger

Like · Reply · 1w

Michael Haley love to, I will respond, but I am up to my eyeballs right now because my house caught fire and I have a lot to do, I shouldn't even be in here discussing this right now lol

Like · Reply · 1w

Michael Haley I got his message, have to run but will respond later



Like · Reply · 1w

Elizabeth Haffner Michael Haley Us as well. we now have to be insurance adjusters to boot. thinking about creating an art installation from our charred black patio furniture. talk soon.
















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and the fact that you dont honor Ojai's history is one of the reasons your voice is not heard.

Like · Reply · 1w

1

Elizabeth Haffner Shannon Nelson who said I don't honor history. I brought up Charlie Chaplin and the Inn starting in the 1920's. Ojai's history includes visitors like Krishnamurti, Beatrice Woods and Aldous Huxley who were great thinkers and all came here to expand the... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

Shannon Nelson You are really funny—all you've done is argue on this site..and I doubt that you have much insight into "what's wrong with society"...hopefully you will gain some with maturity.

Like · Reply · 1w

Mason Cooper Elizabeth Haffner great time to ignore people like this other poster, who seems the type of person who just wants to point fingers, blame etc. and perhaps 'honoring history' means wishing they were back in the good ol' days (I do mean that in the pejor... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 6d

2

Elizabeth Haffner Mason Cooper thank you.

Like · Reply · 6d

1

Nicholas Franklin Michael, my wife works at TMW and I work at Ojai Vineyard. Pretty much everything you said here is wrong. I know you like being the self-appointed expert on all things commerce related, but brush up on your knowledge before you start speaking about specific entities here. That said, you gave us a laugh so thanks for that.

Like · Reply · 4d · Edited

1

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Laurie Bates Face it. Ojai depends on tourism. I agree that those few who vote to have less of it are prob in the 1-3% who can afford to just kick back and relax. Having lived in a tourist town back east, there is a great appreciation for those who come to your tow... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

3

Debi Otto I wonder how the City of Ojai expects to make up the drastic drop in Transit Occupancy Tax Revenue with their major income sources (Ojai Valley Inn and The Oaks) will be shut down for months? They will have to cut jobs and services because they won't have enough revenue to cover expenses...TOT is the City of Ojai's major source of revenue...

Like · Reply · 1w

2

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Lesley Laine Months? hmmm..... Have they stated that they are closed for several months?

Like · Reply · 1w

Debi Otto Lesley Laine that is what understand..and the drop in sales tax from all of the local tourist and non tourist based businesses closed due to the fire...

Like · Reply · 1w

Debi Otto All a recipe for fiscal disaster

Like · Reply · 1w

Lesley Laine I just can't believe that they are staying closed that long. Makes no sense.

Like · Reply · 1w

Koert DuBois Maybe the lesson there is that Ojai shouldn't put all its eggs in the tourism basket. Tourism is fickle, coming and going like fashion. It's a great side job for a city but not a great career.

Combine the volatility of the tourism industry with the ri... [See More](#)

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- Lesley Laine** I grew up in a tourist town AND also have lived in another tourist town. They are and continue to thrive. I am not a business owner here in Ojai. But I know first hand that it can be a very viable industry.

Like · Reply · 1w 1
- Koert DuBois** Lesley, no doubt about it, there is a ton of money to be made from tourism.

Like · Reply · 1w
- Lesley Laine** **Koert DuBois** I think the concept of 'fickle' as it relates to tourism isn't maybe very accurate. Every business has risk, seasons, ups and downs, market issues, etc etc etc. I don't think that tourism is exclusively fickle is what I'm trying to say.

Like · Reply · 1w
- Debi Otto** I agree with Lesley and Kurt. There needs to be a delicate balance with tourism and a diversified economic base. What are solutions that could helps us diversify while supporting our local tourism based small independent businesses?

Like · Reply · 1w 3
- Lesley Laine** Like I've said over and over..... the answers are somewhere in the middle... in the compromise. Until factions sit down at the table genuinely wanting to find solutions and open to compromising their lines in the sand, this argument will continue. There ARE ways to create a win/win situation....or at least something close to it.

Like · Reply · 1w
- Debi Otto** **Lesley Laine** I couldn't agree with you more!!

Like · Reply · 1w 1
- Koert DuBois** Yep, tourism can be fruitful but it should be the icing on the cake, not the cake itself.

Just like in a household, it's great to have to have a family member who's going all-out on their acting career. But it's even better if another member of the fa... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w 5
- Lesley Laine** **Koert DuBois** All I've witness is a group of anti-tourism residents fervently fight and complain about the downtown business community. Many businesses feel harassed by the City and disliked/unaccepted/unsupported by that group. There are power stru... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w 3
- Domlin Juul** Very well said! Leslie **Lesley Laine**

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited
- Koert DuBois** **Lesley**, that's absolutely right. But keep in mind that the power struggles aren't over the way the rules are, they're caused by people who want to stretch the rules for their own personal gain.

And nothing causes tempers to flare like when someone's i... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited 3
- Koert DuBois** ...and, as has been said several times, it's a bit disengenuous to say that being anti-tourism-expansion is the same as being anti-tourism. Or to say that being against rampant visitor exploitation is the same as being anti-visitor.

Like · Reply · 1w 4
- Lesley Laine** **Koert DuBois** agree..... it's hard to not use a generalization just for purposes of explaining.

Like · Reply · 1w 1
- Domlin Juul** To deride "tourism oriented" businesses and promote a vague collection of educational facilities is disengenuous as well. Actually I would support and define an organic ag class, spiritual workshop and sport class as tourist oriented as well. Whole nations are funded on tourism and realistically what other industry could

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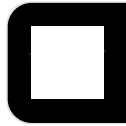
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 **Koert DuBois** Lesley, us human beings spend most of our time trying to identify patterns and form generalizations. It's what keeps us from going insane trying to continually re-evaluate known things. We all generalize, sometimes implying something we don't really me... [See More](#)




Costa Mesa Conference & Visitor Bureau and The Westin South...

VIMEO.COM


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4

 **Michael Haley** Lesley Laine no one has ever fought the downtown business community. The fight has been over turning residents homes into hotel rooms, aka str's. As I said at the tourism conference and many other times before, we need to support the businesses we alre... [See More](#)


Like · Reply · 1w

4

 **Michael Haley** For instance, how much expansion would you like to see of tourism in Ojai? How many new wine tasting rooms, how many apartments and homes converted to visitor lodging, what would you like to see happen?


Like · Reply · 1w

2

 **Michael Haley** What would you like the OTID budget to be and what kind of markets should it be directed to? I have answers for all that, but I can never get people far enough to actually discuss it because they are too busy being sarcastic, making up stuff that is not real, and trying to win an argument over god knows what by bullying the other side.


Like · Reply · 1w

4

 **Leah Hecker** **Michael Haley** - I am sorry, but I would like to chime in here with a personal (and thus, of course, subjective) observation. I went to the Ojai Chautauqua with my family to learn more about the topic of tourism in Ojai, excited to get a perspective fro... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

2

 **Elizabeth Haffner** They don't have a plan. I asked.


Like · Reply · 1w

 **Elizabeth Haffner** Lesley Laine the Oaks is closed for months while they change their concept

Like · Reply · 1w


 **Elizabeth Haffner** **Michael Haley** you are so misinformed it's not even funny. Shop owners and bed and breakfast owners were publicly harassed and shamed for wanting representation in marketing our businesses and the town. People came into their places of business and thre... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

 **Michael Haley** **Leah Hecker** I had no time to explain anything in detail and in fact got cut off before I could several times. Don't know what you mean by things I have a lot to do with. I have always been courteous and willing to talk as I am here. See also my answer to Elizabeth.


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1

 **Michael Haley** **Elizabeth Haffner** I agree that people have treated each other terribly over this issue and it is something I am trying to get away from. But it has happened on both sides. I've been insulted more times in six months than I was in an entire career in po... [See More](#)



Like · Reply · 1w

3
















 **Elizabeth Haffner** **Debi Otto** further to that point, everyone on this thread should remember that because the town makes so much money off the transit occupancy tax, the town itself doesn't actually have a sales tax of it's own. We use the standard county tax, which goes to the county, and then we get a small percentage of. the TOT goes 100% to the city and is 1/3 of the entire operating budget of Ojai.

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Koert DuBois One of the problems I see with relying on transient occupancy taxes is that the dependency turns into spite. Cities like Carmel-by-the-Sea and Monterey (and maybe Napa now) have an attitude among residents that tourists are tolerated, not appreciated, and that tourism is the bad medicine they've been forced to take.

Ojai can do better.

Like · Reply · 1w

1

Beryl Schwartz Elizabeth Haffner I needed to drop out of this conversation.

Like · Reply · 4d

1

Write a reply...

John Wells the web is shining a brite lite on all the cockroaches, their coming out from hiding now, bc their FINISHED ==>>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdclmZ7KZoM&feature=share>



New taco bell illuminati commercial 2017!

My brother just spotted out this commercial 5 mns...
YOUTUBE.COM

Like · Reply · 1w

Leslie Ferraro And I think this post is done.

Like · Reply · 1w

5

Mare Woggon Leslie Ferraro THANK YOU !!

Like · Reply · 1w

Write a reply...

Elizabeth Haffner Don't forget [Linda.com](#) was founded here and run out of town for parking and traffic. They didn't like the 150 employees driving through town. Never understood that, their office was on Bryant circle. We are left with a tourist based economy because oth... [See More](#)



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9

Steve Weed Elizabeth- We don't know each other. Based on your profile, I'll give you the credibility to speak on this at a high level.

In this ongoing debate, many people are asking the wrong question. No one talks about diversifying our economy. Certainly not ... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

Koert DuBois Elizabeth, a close friend of mine had a high-level job at Lynda. She said that the primary reason for the move was so that the founders of the company could have offices closer to their Montecito estate.

If Ojai wants to attract more remote workers, t... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

4

View more replies

Write a reply...

Julija Zonic My mom always said: "Don't bite the hand that feeds you."

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

5

Julija Zonic *hand

Like · Reply · 1w

Write a reply...

John Wells <https://www.intellihub.com/heavily-armed-company-of-u.../> Heather Ann Tucci-Jarraf Alessandro, it is me

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complete context = the UN issue is a non issue...it is only to ca... [See More](#)



Heavily armored company of U.N. vehicles and equipment staged behind...

INTELLIHUB.COM

Like · Reply · 1w



Katrina Sexton

Like · Reply · 1w



Nathalie Selleslags I wonder if anything has been done with the property and land owners in down town Ojai to reduce rents during this season to make it more affordable for businesses to stay open...??

Like · Reply · 1w

3



Koert DuBois Not very many landlords are able to, or willing to, discount rents any more than they have to. Government imposed rent control is always an option, but one that should be avoided at all costs.

This would be a great time for Ojai to institute some sort... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

2



Nathalie Selleslags **Koert DuBois** hmm interesting, I appreciate your thoughts on this. Yes, I'm wondering what will happen for small business owners. It would be refreshing to see collaboration between property owners and businesses renters to facilitate economic stability in our town during this time.

Like · Reply · 6d

1



Write a reply...



Alex Bury Wow, the Thomas Fire cant compare to the heat on this thread!

Thanks to each and every person who has commented here. Im really glad to have got this rolling, I think its a very important issue right now.

Like · Reply · 1w

2

[Hide 14 Replies](#)



Gerry Schwanke Then it will still be just as important when we've cleaned up after the fire. Tourists and the people who feed off them seem to be more persistent than the most relentlessly destructive forces of nature.

Like · Reply · 1w

4



Kristi Marie Jones what seems to be lost ...is that all of us have an idea of what ojai "should" be... And many are not willing to accept the reality of what it is ...a sweet town that people from far and wide love to visit and a big portion of the local economy needs th... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1w

4



Gerry Schwanke And what seems to have been added is the idea that if you come here and open a trendy new shoppe, Ojai owes you a McMansion.

Like · Reply · 1w

3



Kristi Marie Jones I am so sorry you have such disdain for people with money...

Like · Reply · 1w

1



Kristi Marie Jones Just for the record ...i am not rich ...lol

Like · Reply · 1w



Gerry Schwanke I have disdain for the attitude of entitlement.

Like · Reply · 1w

5



Kristi Marie Jones And it swings both ways .. entitled to own a town that is not yours to own ..or anyone's to own ...

Like · Reply · 1w

2

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my simple me
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Koert DuBois Kristi, wouldn't you agree that Ojai already has a thriving tourist economy? What's to be gained by bringing more tourists, another five or six breweries and boutiques? Another six or ten climbing guides?

Calling out Gerry for his "disdain" for wealthy people is almost laughable. Of all people, Gerry couldn't be further away from that kind of an attitude.
Like · Reply · 1w 5

Gerry Schwanke Entitled to continue to live here and not be pushed out by people who see my home as an opportunity to fatten their portfolio. People live here, we are not just numbers on your spreadsheet.

Like · Reply · 1w 6

Leslie Ferraro Kristi, hmmm 'hate coming from those who do not like new comers and tourists'. I have not seen that.

Like · Reply · 1w 3

Lyn Summer Kristi Marie Jones, yah, what's with "there is a lot of hate coming from those who do not like new comers and tourist[s]." Where are you seeing "hate?" Strong word, strong emotion, *not* what most of us see or hear.

Like · Reply · 3d

Lyn Summer Kristi Marie Jones I don't think we're trying to "own" Ojai, we're trying to ensure its health for the next hundred years, just as we would any living, breathing thing that we care about. It's up to the citizens and the people we've elected to be stew... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 3d 3

Gerry Schwanke Too many people see Ojai as a chance to get in, make fat bank and get out. We don't want you here. We live here. We raise families here, and want our taxes to pay for schools, not subsidize your trendy shoppes.

Like · Reply · 2d 1

John Wells WATCH LEARN BOUT CALIF FIRERS, ARE DIRECT ENERGY WEAPONS !
https://www.facebook.com/yash.sharma.9404/videos/10210804262809492/?hc_location=ufi



16:58

34,477 Views

Yash Sharma

December 11 at 10:50pm ·

CA Fires - Space Based Advanced LASER Weapons Used

California Fires seem to be created with Space based LASER Weapons. Multiple eyewitness videos and news repor...

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Like · Reply · 1w

Sarah Jenks Flesher Are you for real?

Like · Reply · 1w

John Wells sarah jenks FLESHERS, just another satanist,

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Elyjah Raphael No one is going to be touring here for a while with our mountains scorched as bad as they are

Like · Reply · 6d

1

Koert DuBois Then it's a good time to regroup and rethink things.

Like · Reply · 6d

3

Elyjah Raphael Koert DuBois sure

Like · Reply · 6d

John Wells maybe greedy developers out to build a thousand tiny homes, for new work force?

Like · Reply · 6d

1

Gerry Schwanke No, that's what the bullet train is for...put the peasants in the desert, make room for more Inns and Spas and McMansions. Don't get caught in town without your work pass.

Like · Reply · 6d

1

John Wells yup perhaps, but if middle class is homeless, hungry displaces, exhausted, ill, easier to control them. middle class too powerful for shadow

Like · Reply · 6d · Edited

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James Mora Most of us don't like the traffic and avoid downtown on weekends. Its Ok, I get it. It should remain an artistic community that has power over changing the charm and spirit of Ojai. Thankfully, a great place to have laid down art loving roots has geogr... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 5d · Edited

12

Mason Cooper James - while my first thought on your post was to reply with the fact that I live downtown (30 second walk from the Arcade) - and that relative to any other place and even this place during the week - there really is so little traffic or crowds on the... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 5d

9

Domlin Juul Mason Cooper and James Mora agreed, I don't get what all the fussies are getting all fussy about. I like the vibrance of a slightly busy village.

Like · Reply · 5d · Edited

4

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Nan Wolf This Ojai Valley Community includes 1) old timers, 2)new comers, We all claim to love each oher

Like · Reply · 4d

Yennyn Beirne Sad too see people don't get it... we need the tourist to support this town. Must if not all of the business in town including their employees are struggling this month, yes right before Christmas.

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Like · Reply · 4d

Wendy Lockwood This weekend is typically a weekend of home and family gatherings, right?

Like · Reply · 4d · Edited

2

Yennyn Beirne Wendy Lockwood wrong...

Like · Reply · 4d

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Write a reply...

Chris Newell Gillian McManus You need to organize a small group of like-minded folks, join up with other like-minded groups, gather at City Hall and push our fearful, reactionary city managers back into a corner and ask them who is more important to this city: Thos... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 4d · Edited

5

Shannon Nelson Wow! I dont think ive ever heard a more descriptive comment from someone who totally doesnt " get". Ojai in my life! In one sentence you just eliminated ojais children and their schools; the people from our past who kept the freeway from coming stra... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 4d · Edited

2

Brittani Harn In reality, if you listen, it's not an argument against all tourism and that tourism needs to come to a screeching halt. It's that we need some balance, as its certainly appearing that the main focus of the customer base is tourist and neglecting locals almost completely in some aspects.

Like · Reply · 4d

3

Elise DePuydt Shannon, Brittani, Koert - I agree with your comments - it's not a question of all or none but of degree. Ojai has been a tourist town since its beginning but that doesn't mean it has to be the only industry and that the town should become like Sedona, Jackson Hole, Lake Tahoe and other tourist towns. Yes to a balance!

Like · Reply · 4d

3

Lyn Summer Only the One-Percenters can afford to go to - or live in - Aspen now. Sedona used to be magical, now it's a Disney destination. They both sold out to the highest bidder.

Like · Reply · 3d

2

Chris Newell Lyn Summer Yes. I agree completely. Aspen, Sedona, Jackson, you name it and they've all been tapped and drained of they're soul. Somehow, Ojai seems to have retained its character (which is, and should, remain modest and not fraudulent). There is no re... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 3d · Edited

1

Lyn Summer Chris Newell It's no accident that Ojai has retained its character and its soul. There are many people here, both long and short-termers, who work very hard, often against great obstacles, to find a healthy balance and stop Ojai from selling out. The... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 3d

3

Chris Newell Acknowledging that tourist-centric towns risk loosing their soul to crass development, one thing I am sure of... Ojai could never, and will never, be an Aspen or a Vail or a Jackson Hole.

Like · Reply · 3d

David Byrne Chris Newell Ojai could easily be a Carmel.

Like · Reply · 2d

Write a reply...

Koert DuBois Of all the cities in the world, one would expect Ojai to have a more cohesive plan for the future than just the short-sighted goal of growing the tourism industry as fast as possible.

Like · Reply · 4d

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combination of strict regulation and a small stock of buildable commercial property don't you think it sort of self regulates? Throw in the... [See More](#)

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Koert DuBois Maybe you don't see "where this fear of tourism" comes from because there is no fear of tourism.

If there is any "fear" (how condescending can you get?) it's in regards to the concern that overly-aggressive promotion of Ojai could easily lead to runaw... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 4d 4

Chris Newell **Koert DuBois** "...I just took a look at Ojai Valley Inn's website and there isn't a single room available until after winter break." Maybe because it's closed until the 15th of January for repairs.

Like · Reply · 4d 3

Koert DuBois Yeah, I suspected something like that. And I'm sure that there are also a bunch of Airbnb's that aren't available because of fire damage.

I should have checked further before saying that the Ojai Valley Inn is booked up. How are the other hotels in town doing?

Like · Reply · 4d

Chris Newell **Koert DuBois** The Oaks is closed for 2 months. Surely those who oppose tourism will enjoy the peace and quiet with less traffic and fewer hipsters.

Like · Reply · 4d 1

Shannon Nelson Why is it that the "pro tourism" side sees things as totally black or white?? As koert says most people in ojai realize tourism is a vital part of ojai economy (and always has been), so we certainly don't want to destroy that industry. However short te... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 4d · Edited 7

Koert DuBois It shows good foresight that the Inn is financially capable of closing for a couple of months without going belly-up.

Hopefully, other small businesses will have disaster income-interruption insurance and those that don't will be supported by the local community.

Like · Reply · 4d 1

Alan Barker **Koert DuBois** So now you play the race card. How low can you go?

Like · Reply · 3d

Michael Haley **Shannon Nelson** best comment on the thread, exactly

Like · Reply · 3d 2

Koert DuBois Alan, not every mention of race is derogatory. There are huge numbers of tourists coming through Los Angeles, and almost every one of them would enjoy visiting Ojai. All three million of them.

"A surge in travelers from China has pushed that country p... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 3d 1

Alan Barker **Koert DuBois** are you really trying to justify your remark about "Asian tourists?" I don't see it now, did you delete it?

Like · Reply · 2d 1

Alan Barker Your remark about "hipsters" was equally divisive and designed to appeal to the Ojai First mentality.

Like · Reply · 2d 1

Alan Barker Dear **Michael Haley**, you are informed enough to know that **Shannon Nelson's** post repeats the falsehood that the OTID was funded by the community. The OTID was funded by the tourists themselves by way of a 1%

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Michael Haley Alan Barker I don't see where she mentioned the OTID at all, if we are looking at the same comment. And there was no ruse, it is just a difficult concept to understand for people, I believe.

Like · Reply · 2d

Shannon Nelson I stand corrected..not community funded; however its status as an improvement district implies community support. Apparently this support was not there. i assume thats why the petition prompted the council to drop the district, as was warranted und... See More

Like · Reply · 2d

Michael Haley it passes through the government and therefore there is a level where the community must support it, but the tax is paid by hotel guests...didn't catch that implication when I read your post. Alan you are in rare form tonight.

Also this goes to support my point that it is a difficult concept for people to understand.

Like · Reply · 2d

Michael Haley Shannon Nelson also the council did not drop it, the council voted for it, three times. Once people say things like this it seems to take on a life of its own. Some people want to blame the council so they say it is their fault. Factually incorrect. The Chamber chose to drop it only in part due to citizen opposition. The council and everyone else was surprised when that happened.

Like · Reply · 2d

Shannon Nelson Ok ill politely decline to participate in this part of discussion because i may not understand it completely..but i do believe that there was strong public opposition to the district...and isnt that whats important here?

Like · Reply · 2d · Edited

Michael Haley Shannon, yes that is important. The public does not want the OTID and fought hard against it. But it is also important that in spite of that, three of the city council members voted for it anyway.

There is a group of business people here who want to b... See More

Like · Reply · 2d

Michael Haley But please, keep writing because no one knows everything and besides, your opinion counts as much as anyone else.

Like · Reply · 2d

Michael Haley It's important to recognize that the city council supported the OTID and went along with the business people and chamber on that, because now all of a sudden they want to blame the city council for it. Even though the city council voted for it. Three t... See More

Like · Reply · 2d

Shannon Nelson And merry Christmas to you too Mr.Haley!...and to all our Facebook friends and foes

Like · Reply · 2d

Koert DuBois "A Merry Christmas to us all; God bless us, every one!"

Like · Reply · 2d

Alan Barker What do you think "community funded tourism promoters" refers to?

Like · Reply · 2d

Alan Barker I agree with Michael Haley in a way. The OTID was about to be handed over to an outside corporate entity that measures its success in dollars only. In that form the OTID would have been a negative force. If the OTID had continued as a locally managed operation that supported Ojai's values it could have contributed to a viable Ojai that we all would appreciate.

Like · Reply · 2d



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advertise for free. Sounds like a positive and mutually beneficial step if true.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1d

Gerry Schwanke I don't quite understand why these people want to turn Ojai into a pricey GI town.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4d 3

Koert DuBois That's a really interesting perspective. This is kind of the same sort of situation as occurred back then, with 1930's idealism butting heads with post-war materialism.

It's not that there aren't other places to live that are more focused on materialism, it's that there are so many people who hope to get their share of the pie as Ojai changes from an idealistic community into a materialistic community.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4d 3

Domlin Juul Koert DuBois oh brother talk about condescending. Generalize much dude?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4d

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Alan Barker Another thing few seem to realize is that the alternative to having a viable local economy is gentrification - a community with extreme inequality of wealth, a service class and a wealthy homeowner class that neither needs nor wants a viable local economy.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4d 2

Koert DuBois It doesn't have to be entirely one or the other. That's where thoughtful planning comes in. After all, there are small towns in America that co-exist with tourism without being heavily-trafficked tourist meccas.

Ojai has a choice.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4d · Edited 3

Reggie Wood People need to be able to continue to afford to live here. When another house goes on the market the higher payers come in and that drives up the cost of housing as well as rents. The focus should be on how the current home owners can increase or otherwise supplement their income. New avenues of healthy eco friendly living can be presented as a tourist venue.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4d

[View more replies](#)

Judie Beckett Just let it rest. Now is NOT the time.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 3d 4

Alan Barker When is the time? 2

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 3d

Leslie Ferraro Alan, maybe when the smoke has ACTUALLY settled..... maybe when ash is done falling, maybe when people have finished having to use a chainsaw to cut the burning oaks from their property, maybe when people are preparing to re-build vs living in the clean up?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 3d · Edited 2

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Bill Hoffman For the last 10 years, we have been traveling every year to Ojai from Maine to spend a week. We do so for the town's beauty, balance, independence and intimacy. By balance we

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 **Reggie Wood** I have been watching the tourist activity as well as the trends the locals have been taking for years and Ojai is still on the right track. Multigenerational enthusiasm to the Ojai expression. The part about the rising cost of living here is unfortunat... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 3d


1

 **Gigi Kaur** I've been without a home for four years due to exorbitant rent prices. Love my van.

Like · Reply · 1d


1

 Write a reply...

 **Trena Neese** The Inn shuts down around Christmas for quite a few years now...


Like · Reply · 3d

2

 **Lyn Summer** When the Inn shut down for remodeling, Ojai somehow survived.

Like · Reply · 3d

2

 **Alan Barker** The City of Ojai went into the red during the remodel of the Inn. How long can that last without a bankruptcy?


Like · Reply · 2d

1

 **Camilla Alexandra Lettini** Yes, and local businesses used to cater more to locals. Local businesses actually lose a lot of revenue by not providing products and prices that locals can use and afford. We used to have stores that sold exclusively items that met locals needs, TG&Y comes to mind. Any lull in business could also be an opportunity to reconnect to the community.

Like · Reply · 2d · Edited

4


 **Alan Barker** We are living in the age of Amazon, like it or not. Retail is downsizing everywhere. The idea that retail selling to locals will sustain Ojai is wishful thinking. Of course we should support local retail but the volume of business is not enough. Re... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 2d

 **Camilla Alexandra Lettini** Most locals spend their dollars, including restaurant dollars, in Ventura. We used to have cost friendly family style restaurants, and Discount stores. Now that money is spent in neighboring towns.

Like · Reply · 2d

 Write a reply...

 **Kali Kealoha Coultas** Well it's my dream to grow food locally for the community. In January I'll be opening up a locals only compost club I hope you all contribute your kitchen scraps to.

This will provide for the soil to create a very large vegetable garden I've been pla... [See More](#)


Like · Reply · 2d

16

 **Michael Haley** fantastic idea

Like · Reply · 2d


5

 **Steven Giese** "people bus into Ojai" ? You do know that you can not do that. There are 2 state highways that go true Ojai.

Like · Reply · 6h

[View more replies](#)

 Write a reply...

 **Michele Louise Hunter** I would love to see and be part of a valley wide community garden program! I will help/support whomever has the knowledge and experience to do this.

Like · Reply · 2d

5


 **Mare Woggon** COMPOST ROCKS !!

Like · Reply · 1d

2

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Gerry Schwanke Not really. Remember, committed tourist towns divert funding away from services and projects that primarily benefit locals in deference to the tourism industry.

Like · Reply · 1d 2

Alan Barker Gerry Schwanke can you give us examples of that?

Like · Reply · 1d

[View more replies](#)

Michael Haley Chris Gardner what woke you up? lol I can see your posts in my emails but can't find them in this thread. Maybe if you seriously want a discussion (or just an argument?) you could start a new post. Then maybe someone would see it.

Like · Reply · 17h

Michael Haley It's funny you start back in by criticizing the council for not doing anything about the potential by asking if they have done anything. First thing out of the gate. Then you slam everyone for not looking things up. But you didn't bother to look that u... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 17h 3

Michael Haley No I can't show you any numbers that traffic is anything because no one has ever studied it. I have never claimed to know who is in the cars coming in. My point is that we need to study it. What we also know is that it is at capacity on 33 coming into ... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 17h 2

Michael Haley Everyone knows if we don't get tourists we will have major financial problems. I nor anyone else on this thread or anywhere I have heard has ignored that. We all know it.

Having said that, it is highly unlikely that we will go 24 months or even 12 mo... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 17h

Michael Haley By the way, I haven't made anything up, and you have not stated anything that I did make up. For the record.

Like · Reply · 17h · Edited

Chris Newell Got editor?

Like · Reply · 17h

Michael Haley Chris Newell ?

Like · Reply · 17h

Alan Barker Thank you Chris Gardner. I think it's a mistake to let this conversation be dominated by a few xenophobes who have nothing positive to contribute. When they fall back on a personal attack as Michael Haley has just done to you, it means they have no valid argument.

Like · Reply · 6h 1

Koert DuBois replied · 5 Replies · 4 hrs

Alan Barker My challenge to Michael Haley and Koert DuBois is to provide positive suggestions for a viable economy in the Ojai Valley. There are many unique qualities that make Ojai what it is. Aside from the recently compromised beauty of the setting there is a... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 4h

Marcy Swartz Toscher replied · 6 Replies · 2 hrs

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Thanks to Robert Mullein of Magic Carpet Cleaning for a sample of the magic solution he uses to get rid of smoke odor - it works!

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Sandy Grotsky Where would one purchase this please?

Like · Reply · 5h

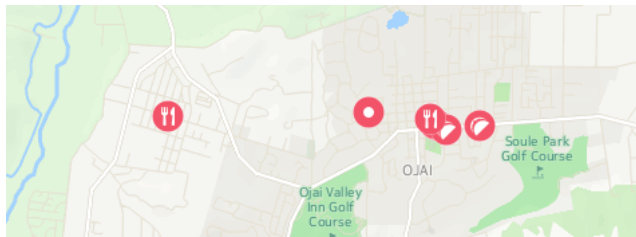
Renee Mandala replied · 2 Replies · 23 mins

Write a comment...

Shortcuts

Loosey Luciano is 🇺🇸 looking for recommendations.
3 hrs

Good places to urinate in public??
Trying not to get a ticket.



Looking for recommendations in
Ojai, California
3 people recommended 7 places

See all of the places recommended by group members.

See All

Like Comment Share

6

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John Le Valley In the philippines...they do it every where here

Like · Reply · 32m

1

Ralph Aguirre I recommend you Go to Help of Ojai...they Donate adult Diapers...take a piss and poop...then take off Diaper...and put it over you face ..for a fabulous Facial...😁

Like · Reply · 25m

Write a comment...

Steven Jansma shared Jerry Boonhua's video.
25 mins

<https://www.facebook.com/boonhua56895/videos/1211839465588041/>



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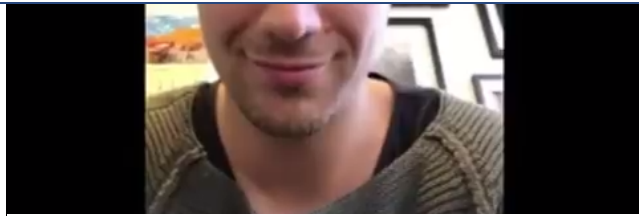
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3,975,467 Views

Jerry Boonhua
September 17

Like Page

Do yoga with your dog they say. It'll be fun they say. 😊

Like Comment Share

2

Shortcuts

Write a comment...

Tom Patison
December 22 at 5:28pm · Ojai

Okay Ojai...
Your fantasy of a tourist free town has arrived. The Inn is vacant... the Air BnB reservations have all cancelled. Downtown is filled with nothing but locals. You want to sustain this beautiful oasis with nothing but local money? Now is the time to prove that it can be done. Go spend some money. Go have dinner. Buy your Christmas gifts downtown. You wanted this. This is your chance. Spend now or forever hold your tongue. You say Ojai first? Prove it. Put your money where your mouth is. See you there. ❤️

Love Comment Share

You, Gillian McManus, Elizabeth Tutnauer Rose and 491 others

33 Shares

View previous comments

Steve Edelson Text Saul
Like · Reply · 6h

Trisha Willard Well said
Like · Reply · 5h

Write a comment...

Micah Sittig
56 mins

Does anyone have a working phone number for the Ojai post office?
Called 646-7904 twice, last week and today, both times the phone rings, and rings, and rings...

Like Comment Share

Lyn Summer Worked for me.
Like · Reply · 34m

Lynn Diane De Midio They don't answer if they are busy....
Like · Reply · 6m

Micah Sittig That's probably what happened, finally got through after a while. Person who answered the phone was sympathetic and helpful. Cheers!

Like · Reply · 4m

1

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
 **Loosey Luciano** 20 hrs

Does anyone in here know how to take a mopar automatic (1999 dodge ram 2wd) out of limp mode?
Bonus points if you'll let me use your drain pans to flush my transmission and change my oil while you help me out

Like Comment Share

3


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 **Emily Vedder** My neighbors hated me in SB when I had my 67 Dodge Dart GT I worked the bars and got home at like 3 and then worked breakfast shifts at Cajun kitchen and would fire her up at 6am 😊😄

Like · Reply · 3h · Edited

2

 Darrienne Lisette replied · 5 Replies · 2 hrs


 **Kim Helton** Ask PD to help you. I am sure they would, they seem to know you so well

Like · Reply · 2h · Edited

2

 Loosey Luciano replied · 3 Replies · 1 hr

 Write a comment...

 **Aggie Arvizu** 5 hrs


My At&t cell phone service is not working. I live in downtown Ojai. My service worked while I was up north so I called AT&T from my home line and after 30 minutes wasn't able to find out anything. So, I tried their chat box online and was informed of the issue. To save anyone else with AT&T the time I spent here is the information provided to me:

Lisa: So there are 3 towers to the east and one to the south of you that are down. And it appears that the one closest to you may be down as well. That is where I see the tickets. Most are calling issues. I am seeing that there is a Planned Restoral time of on or before 12/28 at midnight. Yeah it reaches all the way to Sulphur Springs. It does not say what happened just that it is down. But they are working diligently to get this resolved as soon as possible.


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 **Annika SD** thanks for sharing 1

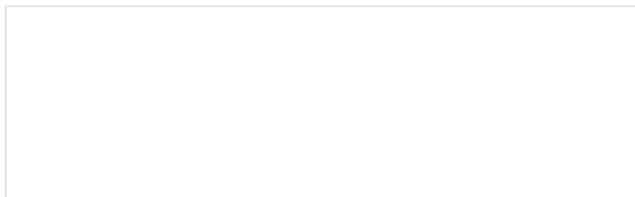
Like · Reply · 1h

 **Stephanie Ann Powell** If you live downtown Ojai, you need to ENABLE WiFi calling. I have att & live downtown. No issues.



Like · Reply · 45m · Edited

 Write a comment...
















 **Sara Lawrence** shared a link. 7 hrs



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California's middle class homeless living in parking lots

Hundreds of people, including nurses and chefs, are sleeping in parking lots in affluent areas like Santa Barbara as they make the most of the only homes they can afford.

DAILYMAIL.CO.UK

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25

1 Share

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Christine Wells-Bowen Heartbreaking!

Like · Reply · 1h



Mike Moler For those screaming to have empathy and hope, well then instead of saying it on Facebook then why don't you open your perfect doors to the middle-class homeless folks.

Like · Reply · 1h

2



Gigi Kaur replied · 3 Replies · 1 hr



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Mimi Davis shared Socialstrong's event.

57 mins



JAN 28 SoCalStrong Benefit Concert
Sun 3 PM · SOHo Restaurant and Music Venue ...
Shared to Ojai Community Thomas Fire Network

Interested

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1



Write a comment...



Eelaroc Esor shared KamboCorazon's event.

1 hr

Ground in the prayer for your New Years Resolution and release anything in the way of that prayer... If you have been affected by the fire the work will be available to you at a deep discount. ❤️ 🙏 ❤️

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Recent studies also reveal Kambo to be extremely powerful against drug resistant strains of bacteria, protozoa, parasites and viruses.

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Kambo decalcifies the pineal gland, harmonizes the subtle systems, and clears the auric field of negative frequencies and energetic blockages.

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Jan 11, 2018 - Jan 13, 2018 · Los Angeles
Shared to Ojai Community Forum

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Michael Haley
Yesterday at 3:04pm

Hey, they are predicting almost a half inch of rain on Monday the 1st. Way to start the new year!

Like Comment Share

63

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Guard Lance Boyles I hope it comes slowly... 2
Like · Reply · 3h

Nancy Wagner replied · 1 Reply



Lynn Diane De Midio No it's gone
Like · Reply · 1h



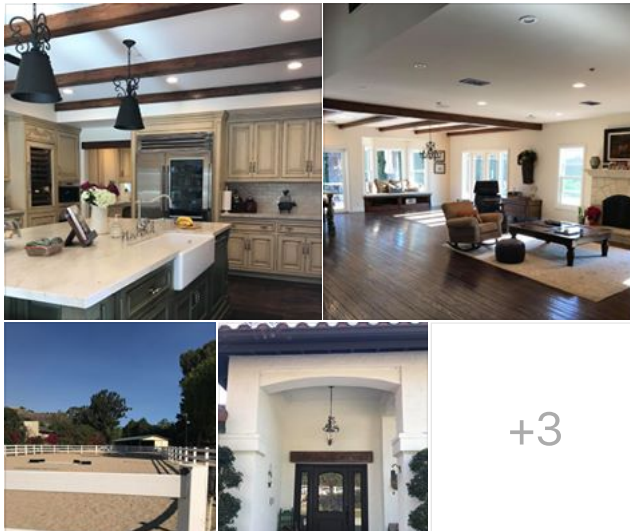
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Dennis Aubery shared his first post.
New Member · 1 hr · Camarillo

Looking for the perfect ranch? Santa Rosa Valley? One story \$1,549,000



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[Gena Dillon](#) Only 1500 a month in rent?

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Gena Dillon Oh wait...your period should be a comma...NOW it makes sense.

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