



The Waller County Express

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The journey of a thousand miles begins with just one step.

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Theme Parks & False Promises: What Jazzland Taught Us and Why Waller County Should Pay Attention

By Citizens in Defense of Waller County
Hempstead, TX July 2025



When a new theme park is proposed, the pitch is always the same: jobs for locals, a boost to the economy, entertainment for families.

That's the vision being sold today with TexasLand USA a 200+ acre development proposed just outside Hempstead in Waller County. Developers promise a Texas-themed wonderland, complete with hotel, rides, restaurants, retail even a rodeo. Early sketches depict coasters, river rides, cultural villages, and Western-style entertainment. Supporters claim it will generate prosperity for generations.

But those who remember Jazzland in New Orleans know this script all too well.

In 2000, Jazzland opened with fanfare and federal incentives on 140 acres in New Orleans East. (1) Its creators promised

the same things were hearing now: local employment, family fun, and long-term economic benefits. The park was designed around New Orleans culture, featuring Mardi Gras floats, Zydeco-themed rides, and a French Quarter-style promenade. (2)

It lasted five years. Even before Hurricane Katrina swept through the region in 2005, Jazzland later rebranded as Six Flags New Orleans was in trouble. Tourists didn't want to travel that far out. Local residents balked at high ticket prices. The summer heat and lack of shade made visits unbearable (3). Attendance dropped from over 1 million visitors in its first year to just 500,000 in its second (4). Ownership changed hands multiple times. The public was left with empty promises and debt.

After Katrina, Six Flags took the insurance payout and walked away. The company cited "catastrophic loss" and opted not to rebuild (5). The park sat abandoned for nearly two decades, a ghost town of crumbling buildings and broken dreams. Locals nicknamed it the ruins of Jazzland. Only now, in 2025, is the land finally being

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Introducing the 2025 Hempstead Watermelon Festival Royalty Court



We are thrilled to present the 2025 Royalty Court for the Hempstead Watermelon Festival. Queen Madison Chandler, Princess Audrianna Rivas, Duchess Kenedy Carlton, Little Miss Lilliana Adams, and Little Mister Tate Dilorio. This has been a record-breaking year, with our incredible candidates and winners raising over \$43,000 in ticket sales and sponsorships! A special congratulations to Queen Madison Chandler, who topped the charts with an impressive 10,000 tickets sold. We are so proud of all the contestants for their outstanding efforts and dedication. Each one played a part in making this year the most successful festival yet. We know these five outstanding young representatives will do a phenomenal job representing Hempstead in 2025!

Theme Parks & False Promises: What Jazzland Taught Us and Why Waller County Should Pay Attention

By Citizens in Defense of Waller County, Hempstead, TX July 2025
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demolished. (6)
What does this have to do with Hempstead?
Everything.
TexasLand USA proposes a massive theme park in a rural part of Waller County with no major highways, no public-transit, and no tourism base. Its a high-risk bet on speculative development. And once again, the pitch is jobs, economy, entertainment.
But we've seen how that story ends.
Jazzland was built in a world-famous tourist city and it still failed. If a theme

park couldn't survive in New Orleans, what chance does it have in Hempstead?
•Waller County deserves better.
•We deserve answers not sketches.
•We deserve transparency not closed-door deals.
•We deserve planning not promises.

This isn't about saying no to fun. Its about saying yes to smart growth, local control, and a future we can count on.
Because 20 years from now, we don't want to be left with empty parking lots, rotting wood, and broken promises.

- References
1. Times-Picayune, June 2000. Jazzland Opens With High Hopes.
 2. New Orleans Advocate, 2002. Jazzlands Design Reflects Local Culture.
 3. Theme Park Insider Forum, 2004. Why Jazzland Isn't Working.
 4. Six Flags Annual Report, 2003. Public SEC Filing.
 5. The Times-Picayune,

September 2005. Six Flags Abandons New Orleans Park After Katrina.
6. NOLA.com, May 2025. Demolition Begins at Abandoned Jazzland Theme Park.



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NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE (REAL ESTATE)

BY VIRTUE OF A Writ of Execution issued out of the In The County Court At Law No.2 Court of Waller County, Texas, in a certain cause numbered CV24-05-1087. On the 19th day of May A.D. 2025, styled: Sharon Burger vs. Pamela Husky, to me, as Deputy directed and delivered, I have levied upon this 26th day of June A.D. 2025 and will between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. at approximately 10:00 on the first Tuesday in August A.D. 2025, it being the 5th of said month, at Room 1111, The Training/EOG Room of The Waller County Sheriff's Office, Located at 100 Sheriff R. Glenn Smith Drive, of said Waller County, proceed to sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash in hand, all right, title and interest, if any, which the defendant had on the 26th day of June A.D. 2025, or at any time thereafter, of and in the following described property:

ABS A306100 A-61 WILLIAM WHITESIDES TRACT 26 ACRES 33.008

Said property is levied on as the property of Pamela Husky and will be sold to satisfy the judgment for \$331,673.85 Dollars. NOTICE: This property may have other liens, taxes due or encumbrances, which may become the responsibility of the successful bidder.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND on this 7th day of July A.D.. 2025.

Troy Guidry, Sheriff
Waller County, Texas

By Sandy Miles
Sandy Miles, Deputy

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