



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: public.relations@wawa.com

Wawa Announces Grand Opening of Henrico Store Featuring New Store Design and Celebrating Local Heroes
New Henrico Store 1st New Prototype of its Kind Designed to Showcase Brand, Food & Beverage
Ceremony Marks 25th Anniversary in Virginia with the Statewide Distribution of \$25,000 to Local Heroes

(Henrico, VA) Sept. 21, 2023 – Wawa, Inc., today announced the grand opening of its newest store located at 5900 W. Broad Street, Henrico, VA 23230 on Thursday, September 21. The store features the first “next generation” Wawa store design the first of its kind in the chain. As part of its continuing effort to celebrate 25 years of serving Virginia, Wawa will present the Virginia Local Hero Award at the grand opening ceremony in Henrico to 25 non-profit organizations to kick off the statewide distribution of \$25,000 to local everyday heroes serving their communities through important non-profit organizations.

Local friends and neighbors are invited at **8:00 a.m.** to join General Manager Matthew Chadinha and officials, who will help do the honors of counting down the moment when the doors open for the very first time. This ceremonial start gives a nod to the power of positivity and kindness that naturally occurs when Wawa customers hold the door for one another, celebrating a gesture that happens thousands of times a day at Wawa stores and makes everyone feel welcomed and appreciated.

The first 100 customers through the door on September 21 will receive a limited-edition “Wawa Coffee, Hoagies & Kindness” t-shirts, while supplies last. **All customers can enjoy free coffee from Thursday, September 21 – Sunday, September 24.**

“We opened our first Wawa store in Virginia in 1998 and we are thrilled to dedicate this celebration to our 25th anniversary and our continued commitment to Fulfilling Lives in the Commonwealth of Virginia with a new design and event to honor everyday heroes,” said Kim Dowgielewicz, Director of Store Operations. “It’s exciting to not only look back on the great moments and milestones we’ve marked through the years, but with this new store design to look ahead at how we continue to evolve and change to meet customers’ needs and provide the best experience possible. We are so grateful to our associates, customers and community for your years of support and are proud to give back to our charity partners in honor of this milestone celebration.”

About the Virginia Local Hero Award

To celebrate 25 years of serving the Commonwealth, Wawa will present volunteers statewide with the Virginia Local Hero Award which offers non-profits and individuals making a significant impact in its community with special awards and financial grants of \$1,000 to their non-profit. Nominations were accepted over the summer, and 25 volunteers have been selected and will be celebrated at the Henrico Grand Opening celebration on September 21.

About the New Generation Store Design

The new Henrico store will feature an all new, forward-thinking store design. The first of its kind in the chain, the new design includes an all-new exterior design with a defined centered entry point, “V”-shaped column, and a cantilever roof canopy. Inside, the warm and inviting modern materials and pallet and aesthetics with a raised ceiling and large windows that let light shine inside. The interior features showcase Wawa’s unique food and beverage offer and provide enhanced interior space for customers and associates. “This new design is the next, important step in our continued store evolution journey. It reflects our current “best thinking” for design and efficiency, showcasing our expanding off-premise offers, built-to-order beverages and pizza,” said Michelle Walsh, Director of New Store Design. “We will always continue to evolve and enhance our interior and exterior design to create better experiences for our customers and associates, while providing the welcoming experience we are known for that remains our key to success.”

About the Sept. 21 Grand Opening Ceremony

Friends and neighbors are invited to count down the exciting moment when the doors open for the very first time at **8:00 a.m.** Customers will then be invited inside to get a free any size hot cup of coffee and participate in a community toast and ribbon-cutting ceremony at **8:30 a.m.** with Wawa’s mascot Wally Goose, oversized scissors, red ribbon, confetti and fanfare.

Wawa will also recognize local first responders with its signature **Hoagies for Heroes** hoagie-building competition. Local first responders from **Henrico Division of Fire** and **Henrico Police Division** will compete to see who can build the most hoagies in three-minutes. Wawa will conclude the Hoagies for Heroes competitions by presenting checks for \$1,000 to each department’s charity of choice.

To stay up to date on the festivities, RSVP to Wawa’s Facebook event [HERE](#).



About the Henrico Store

Matthew Chadinha will serve as general manager of the new Henrico Wawa store, leading a team of approximately 50 associates, all of which are new positions brought to the area through the development of the store. Associates in these full- and part-time positions will receive competitive salaries health benefits, when eligible, and participate in Wawa's employee stock ownership plan (ESOP). Wawa Associates own 39% of Wawa through the ESOP. More information and current job opportunities can be viewed at:

www.wawa.com/careers

The store features Wawa's new store design and is fully equipped with a built-to-order, fresh food kitchen featuring its signature hoagies (80 million hoagies sold annually) and newest food innovations such as Wawa pizza, award-winning Wawa coffee (195 million cups sold annually); the Sizzli™, Wawa's hot breakfast sandwich; Wawa's new line of specialty beverages (hot, cold, iced and frozen); the Wawa Bakery; and Wawa's beverage line of dairy products, juices and teas, plus packaged goods and fuel services, among other amenities. In addition to the store-level experience, customers can access their Wawa favorites through mobile ordering, curbside pickup, delivery options and its newest Catering Online offer where customers can order favorite Wawa foods for their upcoming events at: www.wawacatering.com.

About Wawa, Inc.

Wawa, Inc., a privately held company, began in 1803 as an iron foundry in New Jersey. Toward the end of the 19th Century, owner George Wood took an interest in dairy farming and the family began a small processing plant in Wawa, PA in 1902. The milk business was a huge success, due to its quality, cleanliness and "certified" process. As home delivery of milk declined in the early 1960s, Grahame Wood, George's grandson, opened the first Wawa Food Market in 1964 as an outlet for dairy products. Today, Wawa is your all day, every day stop for freshly prepared foods, beverages, coffee, fuel services and surcharge-free ATMs. Wawa stores are located in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Florida and Washington, D.C. The stores offer a large fresh foodservice selection, including Wawa brands such as custom prepared hoagies, freshly-brewed coffee, hot breakfast sandwiches, specialty beverages and an assortment of soups, sides and snacks. Forbes.com Ranks Wawa as #24 of America's Largest Private Companies in 2021 and #12 on Forbes 100 Halo List in 2022. For more information, visit us on www.wawa.com or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), and Snapchat at @wawa.

