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Wawa Breaks Ground on First Pensacola Store

Groundbreaking Event Included VIP Customers, Samplings of Wawa Products and Remarks from Wawa Leadership on Growth and New Partnerships in Region

(April 26, 2024) – Wawa, a privately held, family-owned chain of more than 1,040 convenience retail stores currently operating in six states and Washington, D.C., is getting closer to bringing its unique food and beverage offer, store experience and community commitment to Pensacola! On April 26, the Company celebrated the official **start of construction on its first Pensacola store located at Pine Forest Road and Sharon Lane projected to open before the end of 2024**. At the Pensacola groundbreaking event, Wawa hosted dozens of VIP customers, as well as local officials and partners, who participated in the groundbreaking and received an update on Wawa's growth plans for Pensacola, which included announcing the next site to go under construction later this year at W. Nine Mile Rd., & Beulah Rd which will open in early 2025. Two additional sites are set to begin construction later this year and open in 2025 at: N. Davis Hwy. & E. Johnson Ave., and US 98 & Blue Angel Parkway. In addition, attendees had the opportunity to hear about the Wawa story, Wawa's unique offer, community partnerships and support for local organizations. Wawa also invited guests to enjoy samples of freshly brewed coffee and other handcrafted beverages as it debuted its new Wawa Community Care Vehicle.

"We couldn't be more thrilled to break ground on our first store and celebrate with our newest soon-to-be neighbors!" said Joe Collins, Director of Store Operations for Wawa." We are thrilled to be kicking off our expansion into Pensacola and can't wait to open our doors!"

At the groundbreaking, Wawa presented \$2,500 grant to **Feeding the Gulf Coast** to support local programs in Escambia County to fight hunger and food insecurity.

About Wawa's Growth & Expansion in Pensacola and the Florida Panhandle

Wawa continues to build a pipeline of sites in the Panhandle Region and projects opening up 8-10 stores in Pensacola and 20 stores in the Florida Panhandle over the next 5-8 years. To build each store, Wawa will invest more than \$7.0 million and employ, on average, 140 contractors and local partners. Once open, each store will employ an average of 35 associates, with Wawa expecting to create hundreds of new jobs in Pensacola and the Panhandle as a result of expansion.

About Career Opportunities: Soar with Wawa!

Wawa's expansion plans will create hundreds of new jobs and career opportunities for those interested in soaring with us as we continue to expand. Joining the Wawa team makes you part of a longstanding tradition of success that spans decades, hundreds of stores, multiple states and counting! It's a chance to become part of a family and associate-owned company committed to putting people first, doing the right thing and making every day a little bit brighter for our communities: one hoagie, smile or experience at a time. Wawa associates have a shared stake in our success and own 39% of the company through an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). View [career opportunities at Wawa](#).

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 in Pennsylvania 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. with nearly 1,000 locations to date. The stores offer a large fresh foodservice selection, including Wawa brands such as custom prepared hoagies, freshly-brewed coffee, hot breakfast sandwiches, hand-crafted specialty beverages, a dinner menu including burgers and an assortment of soups, sides and snacks. Forbes.com Ranks Wawa as #20 of America's Largest Private Companies, #1 in Convenience Category for America's Best Customer Service by Newsweek, one of Forbes 2023 America's Best Employers for Women and New College Grads.

