



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: public.relations@wawa.com

Wawa Celebrates Ground Breaking of Fort Myers Locations
Marking Entrance into Southwest Florida with Community Partnership Lunch Event
First Fort Myers Stores Set to Open Spring, 2015

Fort Myers , FL, (July 15, 2014) – Wawa is “flying” into Fort Myers Florida and is set to share details about expansion into Southwest Florida through a **Community Partnership Lunch**. The event will be held immediately following Wawa’s groundbreaking event of its first Fort Myers store set to open next year. The Community Partnership Lunch is designed to invite local officials, community members, business and charity partners to learn more about Wawa’s history, product offer, people and expected local economic impact in the Southwest Florida region.

On Tuesday July 15, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. Wawa’s Community Partnership Lunch will be held at the **Harborside Event Center, 1375 Monroe Street, Fort Myers FL 33901**. During the event, Wawa officials will announce the first locations to open, show renderings of the stores, and discuss key milestone dates for store construction and openings in the Fort Myers area and overall Southwest Florida Region.

Wawa in Florida

On July of 2012, Wawa launched in Orlando Florida, with a goal to provide a whole new world of quality and convenience for Floridians. Since then, Wawa has opened more than 40 stores between Orlando and Tampa and is employs more than 1500 associates in the sunshine state.

“We are thrilled to mark an important milestone in our expansion by breaking ground on the first three stores in Southwest Florida, marking our official entrance into Fort Myers, Florida ” said Chris Gheysens, Wawa’s President and CEO. “This significant step into a new region in the sunshine state furthers our ability to invest in Florida, open new stores and create more jobs. And while the number of stores we build and associates we employ continues to grow, the growth we are most proud of is in the area of our commitment to community causes. In the past year, we’ve contributed to our neighbors in Florida in many ways including financial grants, blood drives, and community events. We can’t wait to begin to do this in the Southwest Florida community.”

Wawa in Florida by The Numbers

Currently Wawa Has:

- **44 stores open in Florida (27 in Orlando; 17 in Tampa)**
- **Created more than 1,500 jobs**
- **25 new stores under construction**
- **Dozens of stores under contract**
- **\$5-6 million invested in the community with each store built**
- **Contributed more than \$500,000 to local charities throughout our communities**



In the Future Wawa Will:

- **Create Thousands of new jobs** (40+ per new store)
- **Spend \$22,000** in Property Taxes annually for each store
- **Donate** thousands to local charities through The Wawa Foundation and product donations
- Continue to open **25** stores per year for the next several years

Wawa expects to invest close to \$6 million in each store. Every Wawa store employs on average 40 associates. Associates in these full and part-time positions will not only receive competitive salaries and health benefits, but will have the opportunity to participate in Wawa's employee stock ownership plan, once eligible.

About Wawa's Commitment to Fulfilling Lives

Wawa believes that it has a role in making the world a better place. For Wawa associates, that doesn't mean simply filling customer orders – it means fulfilling the lives that they touch every day. Beginning with its first store, Wawa has worked its way into the hearts, minds and fabric of people's lives. Wawa does it around the clock, in 3 ½ minute doses, every day- 24/7, 365 days a year. Wawa is so committed to this concept, it has made fulfilling lives its ultimate purpose and goal – every day. In 2014, Wawa will extend its commitment to fulfilling lives every day through several groundbreaking initiatives and announcements including: the launch of The Wawa Foundation to formalize and increase its support of charities and community programs; the celebration of its 50th anniversary in the convenience industry; the release of its first book authored by former President & CEO Howard Stoeckel entitled, *The Wawa Way: How a funny name and six core values revolutionized convenience*; and through the opening of 45 new Wawa stores dedicated to enhancing Wawa's presence in our markets and bringing the Wawa experience to more people.

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 1960's, 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 fresh, built-to-order foods, beverages, coffee, fuel services, and surcharge-free ATM's. All of Wawa's stores offer a large fresh food service selection, including Wawa brands such as built-to-order hoagies, freshly-brewed coffee, hot breakfast sandwiches, built-to-order Specialty Beverages, and an assortment of soups, sides and snacks. A chain of more than 650 convenience retail stores (over 375 offering gasoline), Wawa stores are located in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia and Central Florida. Wawa quickly became an integral part of the Central Florida Community, with over 40 stores throughout the Orlando and Tampa Markets, 100 stores in the pipeline for continued construction, the creation of more than 1,500 jobs, and the donation of more than \$500,000 in financial grants. The winner of the 2013 Beautification Award for District 1 in Orlando, Wawa is proud to be recognized for its continued commitment to enhancing the Orlando community environment through litter prevention, waste reduction and recycling, and beautification.

###