



File image

The Wawa at 4866 Gate Parkway was taking shape last month at The Crossing at Town Center. It's expected to open this month.

Wawas here, there, everywhere

Gas station and convenience store chain has at least 18 locations in works across Northeast Florida.

By **Karen Brune Mathis**
Editor

Wawa Inc. considers Northeast Florida a 40-store market — and it's almost halfway there in identifying locations.

At least 18 sites have surfaced in Duval, Clay and St. Johns counties.

The Pennsylvania-based retailer

intends to open its first three stores before year-end.

The first two stores are scheduled to open Dec. 13 at 6787 Wilson Blvd. in Westside and at 678 Blanding Blvd. in Orange Park.

The third store, at 4866 Gate Parkway, is expected to open by year-end.

Wawa identified several more stores to open through the summer. Others

are under development or in review, but no completion dates have been announced.

While the company has not provided its list of sites, public documents outline where Wawa is looking for other potential locations.

At the April 6 groundbreaking for the store along Gate Parkway at The Crossing at Town Center, Wawa CEO

Chris Gheysens said the company invests \$6 million into each store, translating into a \$240 million investment in Northeast Florida.

Wawa also hires about 40 employees per store, working out to 1,600 jobs.

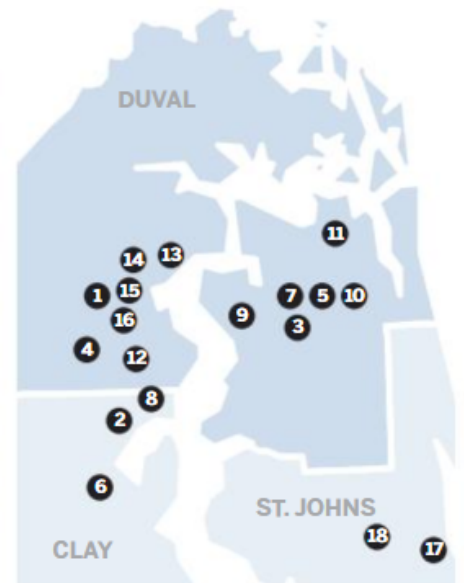
Wawa, based in Wawa, Pennsylvania

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WHERE WAWA IS COMING TO TOWN

Here are the 18 sites that have been identified in Northeast Florida:

| City | Address | Status |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Jacksonville | 6787 Wilson Blvd. at Lane Avenue | To open this year |
| 2. Orange Park | 678 Blanding Blvd. at Filmore Street | To open this year |
| 3. Jacksonville | 4866 Gate Parkway | To open this year |
| 4. Jacksonville | 8251 Old Middleburg Road S., at Argyle Forest Boulevard | To open spring 2018 |
| 5. Jacksonville | 11812 Beach Blvd., at Central Parkway | To open spring 2018 |
| 6. Middleburg | 1563 Blanding Blvd., at Henley Road | To open spring 2018 |
| 7. Jacksonville | 9371 Beach Blvd., at Southside Boulevard | To open summer 2018 |
| 8. Orange Park | 300 Park Ave., at Wells Road | To open summer 2018 |
| 9. Jacksonville | 5735 Philips Highway, at Bowden Road | In development |
| 10. Jacksonville | 13363 Beach Blvd., at Brougham Avenue | In development |
| 11. Jacksonville | 2500 Monument Road, at McCormick Road | In development |
| 12. Jacksonville | 7911 Blanding Blvd., at Collins Road | In review |
| 13. Jacksonville | 1004 Edgewood Ave., at Commonwealth Avenue | In review |
| 14. Jacksonville | Ramona Boulevard and Lane Avenue South | In review |
| 15. Jacksonville | Northwest Normandy Boulevard and Cassat Avenue | In review |
| 16. Jacksonville | Normandy Boulevard and Normandy Village Parkway | Not available |
| 17. St. Augustine | U.S. 1 and St. Augustine Drive South | In review |
| 18. St. Augustine | Florida 16 and Inman Road | In review |



Wawa

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

nia, operates more than 750 fuel and convenience stores in six states.

It opened its first Florida store in 2012 in Orlando.

Five years later, it has opened more than 115 stores across the state. Wawa said in September it plans to open 25 to 30 stores annually in Florida for the next several years.

Its most popular food items are built-to-order hoagies, fresh coffee, breakfast sandwiches and specialty beverages.

There's no certainty that all 18 sites will be developed. Some deals won't be completed until terms are reached for land and permits are approved.

Competitors, including Jacksonville-based Gate Petroleum Co., are expanding as well.

Misty Skipper, Gate vice president of marketing and communications, said the largest concentration of its stores is in Northeast Florida.

It has been building and redeveloping stores and also is launching stand-alone Gate Express Carwashes around the area.

"Gate has never been without competition," Skipper said.

"Clean, bright, spacious stores with a quality selection of fresh food will allow us to continue to be competitive. We work every day to make sure we are providing the highest-quality goods and services to our customers," she said.



File image

The Wawa near St. Johns Town Center is one of at least 18 in the works for Northeast Florida.

Skipper said Gate, created in 1960, provides fuel services to about 200 stores in the Southeast, and almost half of those are branded as Gate.

The largest concentration of those is in Northeast Florida, she

said. A Google search finds more than 30 stores in Duval, Clay, Nassau and St. Johns counties.

Gate's history says founder Herbert Peyton coined the name from the 1960s JAX Chamber slogan - Jacksonville: A Gateway

to Florida.

Jacksonville-based First Coast Energy operates at least 37 Daily's gas stations and convenience stores in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Gainesville and Broward County.

A Google search finds 27 in Duval, Clay and St. Johns counties.

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