

# Prince William Times

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Covering Prince William County and surrounding communities, including Gainesville, Haymarket, Dumfries, Occoquan, Quantico and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park.



## ‘They helped us. Now it’s our turn to help them.’

Volunteer group has so far resettled nearly 60 Afghan families in Northern Va.

By Cher Muzyk  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In mid-August, just days after Taliban fighters entered the capital of Afghanistan, Khaibar Khan Mohmand, 23, was violently attacked from behind and left bloodied on the street. Four months later, he has recovered and is settling into his new home in Dale City with the help of a group of dedicated local volunteers.

On a recent December evening, after volunteers worked in the dark to deliver a bed, couch and television, Mohmand recounted his last, terrifying days in his home



Khaibar Khan Mohmand, 23, is embarking on a new life in Dale City after being evacuated by U.S. Marines in August.

country and how he managed to make his way to the U.S.

Mohmand, who was training to be a doctor in Kabul, said he was attacked while walking home. Out of nowhere, his assailants beat him with the buttstock of an AK-47 and repeatedly cut him with the bayonet

See RAFT, page 4



PHOTOS BY CHER MUZYK

Afghan refugee Khaibar Khan Mohmand, far left, with NoVA RAFT volunteers, from left, the Canty family: Tommy, 10, mom Annaliis, Malcom, 13, and Daniel, 14, with fellow volunteers Dan Altman and Jennifer Himes, gather after setting up furniture for Mohmand in a Dale City townhome where he is living with family friends. Altman, a NoVA RAFT founder, said it’s important to take time to welcome our new neighbors. “In Afghan culture, it’s a gift to have guests,” Altman said.

## County environmental staff rejects rural data center plan

Report cites ‘major’ impacts to forests, streams

By Daniel Berti  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Prince William County’s environmental officials are recommending that board of county supervisors deny a request to replan 2,133-acres in the rural crescent for data centers because of the risks the development poses to nearby forests, streams and wildlife.

The county’s watershed management division submitted its comments Dec. 10 as part of a standard agency review of a comprehensive plan amendment application known as the “PW Digital Gateway.”

“Major impacts would include loss

of extensive tracts of forest land, dramatic increases in impervious area, impact to numerous intermittent and perennial streams, steep slopes with highly erodible soils, wildlife habitat (including habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species) and potential impacts to wetlands,” said Benjamin Eib, assistant chief of the county’s watershed management branch. “The development of existing data centers has demonstrated that extensive mass grading and the nearly wholesale clearing and flattening of large parcels is the norm.”

See DATA CENTER, page 5

## Prince William being considered for new NFL stadium

By Daniel Berti  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Prince William County is among the areas in Northern Virginia in the running for a proposed new stadium and commercial complex for the Washington Football Team, according to two local state lawmakers.

State Sen. Jeremy McPike, D-29th, and Del. Luke Torian, D-52nd, both said Tuesday they met

with Washington Football Team officials last week to discuss the possibility.

McPike said he and officials discussed the potential for a reduced capacity stadium in Northern Virginia that would be accompanied by a “vibrant” mixed-use, entertainment district. McPike compared the plan to a “mini-city” that would have residential areas, restaurants and other entertainment destinations.

“I’ve got an open mind,” McPike said. “I think there’s a lot of potential there, and it’s certainly the right fit.”

See STADIUM, page 2



Va. Sen. Jeremy McPike, D-29th



Va. Del. Luke Torian, D-52nd

COVID numbers surging again in PWC  
See Page 2

Holiday movies free with a Prince William library card  
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# 'They helped us. Now it's our turn to help them.'

RAFT, from page 1

attached at the other end. In and out of consciousness, Mohmand lay on the sidewalk bleeding, pretending to be dead. Sometime later, a van picked him up and took him to the hospital. When he opened his eyes, he found himself in the intensive care unit at the hospital where he worked.

Mohmand said there is a reason he was attacked. His late father had been in the Afghan National Army for 40 years, reached the rank of general and worked with American soldiers to fight the Taliban who his father said had "misused their power."

"I was the son of a soldier. I was the son of a general. Everyone knows that because my father was a commander of an army," he said.

Alarmed that he had become a Taliban target, Mohmand left the hospital as soon as he was able and walked straight to the airport with his head, back and hand still bandaged from the attack.

Mohmand said he arrived at the airport gate with just one extra change of clothes and his school transcripts. While he had no money nor food, he had something of value: He is fluent in seven languages: Dari, Pashto, Farsi, Urdu, Hindi, Bengali and English.

After navigating through hordes of people, Mohmand said he found British troops and offered to help them communicate with Afghans who were quickly amassing at the airport. Mohmand said he assisted British forces in the effort to evacuate eligible Afghan civilians for two days until he found his way to the U.S. Marines and began translating for them.

"I became the Marines' interpreter over there. I volunteered," he said.

Mohmand said there was no food at the airport, and he had only the water the Marines shared to drink. As flights out of the city waned, Mohmand continued translating for the Marines as the evacuation effort grew more desperate by the day.

After five days at the airport, the Marines agreed Mohmand was in danger and wouldn't survive in Taliban-controlled Kabul.

"They told me, 'You want to go?' I told them, 'I am not safe in Afghanistan. Is it possible to transfer me to the United States?' They helped me a lot in the airport. [Later] they told me, 'You get to go. You can go.' And I got on a flight out of Afghanistan on August 25th."

Both grateful and relieved, Mohmand said he sat on the floor of a military plane as it left Afghanistan behind. "I don't have good memories from Afghanistan," he said.

Mohmand's plane first landed in Qatar. He then went to Germany where he spent four days at a U.S. military base receiving care for his wounds. Just one flight later, Mohmand finally stepped foot onto U.S. soil at Dulles airport, ready to begin his new life.

"I'll do my best. I'll try hard in the United States," he said. "I would be a good citizen in the United States. I'm very happy to be in the United States."

## NoVA RAFT

Mohmand is one of about 73,000 Afghan allies who have arrived in the U.S. since American forces pulled out of their country in mid-August. Dan Altman and Natalie Perdue, longtime friends who live in Springfield, said they knew immediately that many of the refugees would be coming to Northern Virginia and would need help with the basics: finding places to live, getting furniture, clothes and supplies, registering kids for school and finding medical care.

In late August, Altman and Perdue held a meeting for friends and neighbors willing to assist the soon-to-arrive Afghans. That night, 59 people showed up. They agreed to help set up homes for 10 families by gathering donations and recruiting volunteers to move furniture and supplies.

## Northern Virginia RAFT (Resettling Afghan Families Together)

**What:** A coalition of neighbors supporting newly arrived Afghan allies. Volunteer teams provide in-kind donations, work directly with newly arrived Afghan families and raise awareness. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/novaraft>.

### How to help

#### Donate supplies

Amazon registry: [shorturl.at/doyX5](https://shorturl.at/doyX5)

Walmart registry: [shorturl.at/lmrKN](https://shorturl.at/lmrKN)

#### Donate furniture

NoVA RAFT accepts new or gently used items in excellent condition. [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpwOf\\_zgZFb5AkfhN770iu9YH-QS7iZ3V\\_af68aGmKbqjEXw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpwOf_zgZFb5AkfhN770iu9YH-QS7iZ3V_af68aGmKbqjEXw/viewform)

#### Volunteer

Volunteers are needed to pick up furniture from donors, organize inventory, set up homes and provide follow-up assistance.

Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4baba82dabffc61-furniture>

That night, NoVA RAFT – Northern Virginia Resettling Afghan Families Together – an all-volunteer effort to welcome Afghans to the U.S. with kindness and dignity, was born. Since then, NoVA RAFT has become a lifeline for dozens of Afghans who have arrived in Virginia with almost nothing, except for the single soft-sided bags of personal items they were allowed to bring on the planes.

Perdue said the effort requires a mass of good-hearted volunteers to turn completely empty apartments into warm and welcoming homes for traumatized families.

NoVA RAFT organizers began their work by spreading the word about the need for donations of furniture and household goods. Volunteer drivers pick up donations and bring them to a holding area, where more volunteers sort and inventory them. Team leads meet with Afghan families to determine their needs and "shop" for them from the donated stock.

Next, home set-up volunteers unload and set up refugees' new homes with care. Volunteers also provide follow-up support with tasks such as getting drivers' licenses and ID cards, filling out job applications, registering children for school and finding doctors.

Donations are a constant need. Always-in-demand items include mattresses, furniture, coats, traditional pressure cookers (not Instant Pots), electric tea kettles and UBER gift cards.

Tammy Ross, a Montclair resident, is the point person for NoVA RAFT in Prince William County. She is trying to recruit more local volunteers as more and more Afghan families move into areas of both eastern and western Prince William.

As of mid-December, NoVA RAFT had outfitted nearly 60 homes, far exceeding their initial goal. And they have no plans of stopping as the need grows. Another 150 families are expected to arrive in the region by the end of December as they transition from military housing, including at Quantico, Ross said.

Jennifer Himes, a federal employee who resides in Alexandria, recently found out about NoVA RAFT in a local "Buy Nothing" Facebook group and has already assisted with six home set-ups including Mohmand's. Himes said she drove to Woodbridge multiple times to help move furniture, set up kitchens, put together cribs and donate goods.

"They helped us, and now it's our turn to help them," Himes said, adding: "It really just kind of breaks your heart a little bit because you come in and these people have literally nothing."

## Landing in Dale City

Mohmand said he spent 45 days in quarantine at Fort Pickett in Blackstone, Virginia, where he received vaccinations, had his biometric data recorded, applied for a work permit and submitted his request for a Special Immigrant Visa.

As soon as he could, Mohmand announced on his Facebook page that he had arrived in the U.S. and needed a place to stay.

Family friends of Mohmand's late father responded right away. Also, originally from the Nangarhar Province, they received their visas four years ago and are already established in a comfortable townhome in Dale City. The family of six offered their basement to Mohmand.

Being fluent in English and having an offer of housing and support from a family friend is the exception and not the rule. Most Afghan refugees have neither advantage and must rely on assistance from resettlement agencies and groups like NoVA RAFT. Some families sleep on the floor of empty apartments for days or even weeks as they wait for bed frames and mattresses, Perdue said.

NoVA RAFT volunteers supplied Mohmand a small sofa, a chest of drawers, a bed frame, a mattress, sheets, towels, cleaning supplies and a television. Eleven volunteers -- all families with school-aged kids -- showed up after dark and in the cold to move the furniture. All drove from Arlington or Alexandria to help.

Guided by cell phone lights, they unloaded the moving van and carried everything into Mohmand's new home. Then everyone gathered inside to hear his story. The family offered the volunteers fresh fruit, and Mohmand thanked them for their help.

Like others NoVA RAFT has helped, Mohmand said he was overwhelmed by the volunteers' generosity.

"American people are very hospitable people, very hospitable. I like to be in America," he said.

## American dreams and plans

Mohmand said he taught himself to speak English with an American accent by watching American television shows and movies when he was young. His favorite movie was the "The Terminator," starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, which he said he watched repeatedly and dreamed of coming to the U.S.

Mohmand said that his father passed away during heart surgery 11 years ago. After that tragedy, Mohmand's mother would say to him, "Khaibar, be a doctor." She had a dream that I would be a big doctor," he said. She passed away a few years later in a car accident.

Before he left, Mohmand was training to be a surgeon. Here, he is glad to have received his work permit and immediately applied for a job at McDonald's.

"I have to start working as soon as possible. It doesn't matter, but I have to start [earning an] income," he said.

He also wants to get his driver's license and eventually a car. He recently passed the written portion of the driver's license exam. While the test may be taken in several languages, Mohmand insisted on passing it in English. "I told them I am going to pass in English. It's not a problem. ... I study hard," he said.

"My dream is to be a good doctor, to be the best surgeon in America. That was my biggest dream. And also, my dream is to serve America, American troops, and also to be a good citizen in America."

Mohmand said he also has a fiancé whom he hopes to bring to the U.S. one day. But first, his plan is to "get a simple job for myself to work in America and file for my green card," he said.

"I'll work a full day [and then] at the off time, I'm going to study for my medical school and try to find a scholarship to medical school," he added. "This is my target."

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## Data center plan resurrects Bi-County Parkway debate

By Daniel Berti  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

As new details emerge about a plan to turn a mostly undeveloped area of western Prince William County into a 2,133-acre data center corridor, some elected officials and civic groups are increasingly concerned it could resurrect the Bi-County Parkway, a controversial 10-mile bypass once planned to connect Interstate 66 with U.S. 50 in Loudoun County.

From 2012 to 2016, county residents fought the Bi-County Parkway over concerns that it would open Va. 234 in Prince William to significant truck traffic between Interstate 95 and Dulles International Airport. Ultimately, the road lost the

support of half of the Prince William County supervisors, who removed the road from the county's comprehensive plan in 2016.

Concerns about the parkway have arisen in recent months primarily because the proposed data center corridor, known as the "PW Digital Gateway," would be built along Pageland Lane, which was slated to become a key section of the Bi-County Parkway, and because estimates show the data centers would drastically increase traffic if the gateway plan is approved.

"The moment any significant commercial development is approved for that corridor, it will immediately bring with it calls to bring up the Bi-County Parkway," Del. Danica Roem, D-13th, said in an op-ed for the *Prince William Times*.

"The existing two-lane country road itself won't be able to support even more commuters at a time when we already have commuters using [Pageland Lane] as a short-cut."

The PW Digital Gateway plan would allow for the construction of up to 27.6 million square feet of data centers in an area currently off limits to industrial development, making it one of the biggest land-use changes in Prince William County in decades.

In a Nov. 20 traffic report, county transportation officials said the PW Digital Gateway would increase traffic on Pageland Lane from 2,000 vehicle trips per day to more than 27,000 vehicle trips per day at full build out.

See **BI-COUNTY PKWY**, page 4

## For local tree farmer, sales are evergreen

Jim Gehlsen, owner of the county's sole remaining Christmas tree farm, expects another busy year

By Cher Muzyk  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Jim Gehlsen had the idea for a Christmas tree farm on his Nokesville property about 40 years ago. In 1984, he planted the first pine tree seedlings and then, six years later in 1990, he made his first sales at Evergreen Acres.

Now, 31 years later, Evergreen Acres has more than 20,000 trees -- 15,000 white pines and 5,000 Norway spruces -- growing on 97 acres of farmland abutting Cedar Run stream. Gehlsen, 67, and his wife Jean also opened Cedar Run Brewery in 2019, which is located on the property next to the tree farm.

When Gehlsen began planting trees in the 1980s, he had plenty of ambition as well as local competition in the "choose-and-cut" Christmas tree farm business. Gehlsen says he knew of at least three other Christmas tree farmers in the county with "intense operations." But over time, each shuttered its operations. Most recently, the Harlan Family Christmas Tree Farm in Nokesville bid farewell to its longtime customers in December 2020, leaving Evergreen Acres the last Christmas tree farm in the county.

Gehlsen, who worked simultaneously as a masonry contractor for 32 years, persisted in the tree farm business with the help of Jean and their five children.



PHOTO BY CHER MUZYK

Jim Gehlsen, owner of Evergreen Acres, Prince William County's last remaining Christmas tree farm, demonstrates how he knows when his cut-your-own trees reach 7 feet in height.

## 'Vaccination of children is necessary now.'

Pediatrician answers our questions about kids and the COVID-19 vaccine

Staff Reports

It's been about a month since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention first OK'd Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for kids ages 5 to 11 and nearly seven months since the vaccine was approved for kids and teens 12 and older, which happened back in May.

Still, only 18.7% of Prince William County kids between the ages of 5 and 11 have received their first dose of the vaccine, while about 68% of local kids and teens between 12 and 15 are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

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Dr. Vivian Nzedu

See **TREES**, page 6

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## For local tree farmer, sales are evergreen

TREES, from page 1

"I had the vision for this business 40 years ago -- seeing people moving out this way -- and it's coming true. But I didn't expect all of these growers to fall off," Gehlsen said.

### A tough few years

Farming Christmas trees is a year-round, labor-intensive effort. Gehlsen says that planting and caring for the trees is both an art and a science requiring someone who doesn't "run out of gas real quick."

And, Gehlsen says, it has become even more difficult in recent years due to erratic weather patterns, which he thinks are part of global warming.

On a typical year, in March, Gehlsen purchases and plants about 2,000 to 3,000 seedlings in rows about 120 trees long. Making it through the first year is critical to a seedling's survival while it develops its root system, he said.

In 2018, Gehlsen lost a significant number of trees due to extreme rainfall that resulted in drowned seedlings. To make up for the losses, Gehlsen planted 4,000 seedlings in March 2019. Then, just a few months later that summer, he lost a much larger 80% of those seedlings to drought.

In March 2020, Gehlsen planted another 4,000 seedlings. And again, later that summer, he lost 80% of those seedlings to drought.

At the beginning of this year, forecasting 10 years into the future, Gehlsen started to panic about what his future crop might look like with yet another year of seedling losses. In his decades of tree farming, Gehlsen says he has never had a series of such dramatic and consecutive losses like he had in 2019 and 2020.

In March 2021, Gehlsen planted another 4,000 seedlings. This year, the dreaded drought struck again in July. Gehlsen observed signs of stress on the larger trees -- once upright pine needles were pointing downward. Gehlsen knew from his re-

cent experiences that in a matter of mere days, the newly planted seedlings would turn brown and die just like they had the previous two years.

Fearing another devastating loss, Gehlsen said he thought to himself, "Holy smokes, I've got to pump water." Gehlsen acted fast. He took his tractor, a water pump and piping down to the nearby Cedar Run stream and set up an emergency irrigation system for the first time in his 40 years of tree farming.

"I started pumping 4,000 gallons an hour, 24 hours a day for seven days. And if you do that math, it's about 650,000 gallons of water," he said.

Three times throughout every 24-hour period, Gehlsen reconfigured about a dozen 30-foot sections of pipe to saturate the entire growing field. Gehlsen said the hydration system "staved off the drought" and saved this year's seedlings.

It will be 10 years until this year's seedlings will be ready for sale, and Gehlsen will be 77 years old at that time. Over the next 10 years of growing time, each of those trees will need to be trimmed annually.

"Right now, I've got about 15,000 white pines. I've got a 30-day window to trim them out. That means I've got to trim 500 trees a day from June 8th to July 8th," he said, explaining that if he trims too soon, the traditional Christmas tree shape won't set. If he trims too late, he'll inadvertently cut off new buds, and the tree will no longer grow, "turning it into a permanent bonsai tree."

All of it is a lot of work, and Gehlsen said he hasn't had a vacation in the last five years.

### Booming sales

Now that Evergreen Acres is the closest Christmas tree farm to the beltway, Gehlsen says he welcomes customers from all over the region. A visit to Evergreen Acres is a long-held holiday tradition for many local families.

For 30 years, Black Friday was the unofficial



PHOTO BY CHER MUZYK

Evergreen Acres, Prince William County's last remaining Christmas tree farm, is growing about 20,000 trees on about 97 acres in Nokesville.

kickoff to Christmas tree season at Evergreen Acres. But last year, Gehlsen pushed back his opening day one week in the face of extremely high demand due to more people celebrating at home and staying local as a result of COVID-19.

Evergreen Acres' current supply of trees is limited by what Gehlsen planted eight to 12 years ago.

Opening the tree farm later last year didn't hurt sales. In fact, last year was Evergreen Acres' busiest year ever. The farm sold 1,100 trees in less than two weeks, raking in about \$70,000 in sales. The farm also set its best single day selling record of 464 trees sold on Dec. 6, 2020, the first Saturday of the selling season, Gehlsen said.

With the increased demand and extra work required over the last few years, Gehlsen is raising his prices this year, upping the price of his white pines from \$60 to \$80. His Norway spruces were "a steal" last year at \$80, Gehlsen said. This year, he increased them to \$120 for 7-foot-tall spruces and \$150 for those over 7 feet tall, to more closely match the prices of his closest competitors, he said.

See TREES, page 8



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# From trash to Transformers

The story behind the giant Bumblebee on U.S. 29

By Cher Muzyk  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The popular Transformers' character "Bumblebee" that captivates audiences on the big screen is now wowing motorists along U.S. 29 in Warrenton, thanks to a very talented Meadows Farms delivery truck driver.

Meadows Farms has an annual fall festival, and part of the celebration is a "giant scarecrow" competition among its multiple Northern Virginia locations. Rick Clark, 60, created Bumblebee at his Warrenton farm as this year's entry for Meadows Farms' Warrenton location on Lee Highway.

Bumblebee won. And it is easy to see why.

At 15 feet tall with a 10-foot arm span, Bumblebee towers above U.S. 29 and beckons passersby to stop and take a look. A closer inspection reveals that Bumblebee is in fact made of nothing but junk. Clark had a vision for these scraps and leftovers and turned them into a magnificent spectacle.

"When I was assembling the body parts in front of the store, a little boy's eyes got big when he recognized it as Bumblebee. I knew I had it," Clark said.

Clark is a longtime employee of Meadows Farms Nursery in Warrenton. He said that his mother and brother were both talented at drawing, but he wasn't. He was interested in sculpture and putting pieces together to form new things.

Clark has used his talents to win Meadows Farms fall festival giant

scarecrow competition five times. In previous years, he created gigantic versions of Popeye, Charlie Brown, Winnie the Pooh and Ryder from Paw Patrol.

"I used different materials to create those other figures, mostly foam, caulk and latex," he said. "This year was different, I used scrap parts and stuff I found around my farm and screwed it together to make Bumblebee."

Clark said he had been thinking about creating Bumblebee for years because a child had once asked him: "Why didn't you make a Transformer?" Clark decided this year would be the year he would take on the challenge. So when the Warrenton location staff voted on what character to create this year, he was able to influence them to choose Bumblebee because he was already thinking about how he could create it.

Clark got to work in late summer and spent every spare minute he had for more than five weeks to create Bumblebee. The project was on Clark's mind constantly.

"I was thinking about it all the time," he said, explaining that it took plenty of mental focus to figure out just how to place the scrap parts and recycled materials he had sitting around his property to make Bumblebee come to life. Working four to five hours each weeknight and then 10 hours over the weekends, Clark managed to complete Bumblebee and beat the contest's Oct. 1 deadline by more than two weeks.

Clark used plastic jugs, storage tubs and lids, tires, gears, belts, PVC



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

Meadows Farm delivery truck driver Rick Clark, of Warrenton, created this 15-foot Bumblebee Transformer for the nursery's annual "giant scarecrow" competition. Bumblebee won.

and corrugated pipes, and even plastic lawn chairs in his creation. Bumblebee's fingers are old clamps Clark had used for lumber, and the chest piece is from a rubber car bumper.

"I picked up the bumper from a median in the road three years ago. I kept driving by it thinking I should pick it up because I knew, eventually, I would use it for something," he said. "One day I grabbed it and threw it in my truck. It turned out to be the perfect chest piece for Bumblebee."

The only supplies Clark purchased were the yellow paint, clear tubing and the screws he used to put it all together. When he was done creating Bumblebee's abdomen and appendages, he transported them from his farm to the nursery in a dump truck. Clark said the pieces themselves are not that heavy because they are mostly made of plastic but probably weigh about 200 pounds or so collectively.

Clark said his final step was to put all the pieces together and affix everything to a telephone pole to display it near the nursery's entrance.

Katrina Whitten, a salesclerk at Meadows Farms in Warrenton, said since Bumblebee was erected in the store's pumpkin patch near the roadside, "People drive by, and they do a double-take."

"You can see them from their cars

thinking, 'There's a Transformer on the side of the road!'"

Whitten said Bumblebee won the Meadows Farms scarecrow contest "by a long shot," adding: "As soon as it was posted, everybody said, 'OK, let's call it a contest now because nobody's getting better than that.'"

Whitten said the store gave the \$200 in prize money from the contest directly to Clark.

As word about Bumblebee has spread, people have called the nursery to ask if they can come visit and take pictures – all of which are welcomed by Meadows Farms. Whitten said one family came "all decked out in Transformers costumes" and took pictures with Bumblebee because their kids were "obsessed with Bumblebee."

Clark said he is glad Bumblebee has made people happy and plans to take the Transformer back to his farm and set it up there when the nursery closes for winter.

"I am a delivery truck driver, so I see people looking at Bumblebee sometimes as I drive in and out," he said. "Sitting back and watching people enjoy it is my reward."

To see Bumblebee in person, visit Meadows Farms in Warrenton at 5074 Lee Highway. He'll be standing guard over the nursery through the end of the year.

Reach Cher Muzyk at [cmuzyk@gmail.com](mailto:cmuzyk@gmail.com).



COURTESY PHOTO

Rick Clark, the Meadows Farm delivery truck driver behind the giant Bumblebee Transformer, celebrates after erecting the sculpture outside Meadows Farms.