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**DENICE AND JAMES HARRISON**

**LOCALLY OWNED  
PATRIOT PEST SOLUTIONS**

*Providing Expert  
Pest Control and Wildlife  
Management Services*

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# LOCALLY OWNED PATRIOT PEST SOLUTIONS

*Providing Expert Pest Control and  
Wildlife Management Services*



**By Kathy Hunt**

The signs of springtime are all around us. Look out your window and you'll spy a cluster of red-and-black boxelder bugs clinging to the sill. Walk out your front door and into a roiling swarm of gnats. When an army of red ants commandeers your kitchen counter or a family of groundhogs claims your shed as their summer home, you know it's time to call the licensed, insured professionals at Patriot Pest Solutions LLC. Headquartered at 414 West Main Street in Trappe, the locally owned, small business has been resolving insect and wildlife problems for residential and commercial customers in Southeastern Pennsylvania for over a decade.



*Left to Right: Lynda Smiley – office manager, James Harrison, and Denice Harrison*

PHOTOS BY STYLISH IMAGES



James is an associate certified entomologist and a member of the National Pest Management Association.

## Experienced Extermination Experts

Patriot Pest Solutions began 11 years ago in the Royersford home of James and Denice Harrison. The couple decided to name their venture “Patriot” in recognition of James’, his brother’s and his father’s military service. James and his brother served in the United States Army. His father was in the U.S. Navy. The Harrisons take defending both their country and people’s properties seriously. Their business slogan says it all — “Eliminating pests is our patriotic duty.”

The company supports residential and commercial clients in Montgomery, Berks, Chester, Delaware, Bucks, and Philadelphia counties. Its staff of 12 consists of co-owners James, who is an associate certified entomologist (ACE), and Denice, six licensed technicians, three customer service representatives, and a business developer. It is one of only a handful of extermination companies in Pennsylvania to have an associate certified entomologist on staff.

In addition to James’ status as an ACE, Patriot Pest is a member of the National



Pest Management Association (NPMA), which provides continuing education and addresses the technical, governmental, educational, business, and networking needs of its members. The company is also listed as a National Wildlife Control Operators Association (NWCOA) certified wildlife professional. Through NWCOA, its technicians maintain the knowledge and techniques of safe, humane wildlife management. Additionally, Patriot Pest is part of the Pennsylvania Trapper’s Association, which advocates for the humane trapping of wildlife. Its technicians are licensed through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

With credentials as strong as these, you know that, when consulting Patriot Pest Solutions, you can expect well-informed and effective resolutions to your wildlife headaches. After all, you are working with trained experts in the field of pest control. What you may not

anticipate is the personable and respectful manner with which Patriot Pest Solutions treats all of its customers.

“I can’t tell you how many calls we get from potential clients who call Patriot because they are unhappy with the large pest control companies,” Denice Harrison said. “They don’t want their call to get sent to a distant call center, they want to talk to someone they know.”

## The Value of a Small, Locally Owned Business

As Denice noted, customers appreciate the personal touch that small businesses provide. Generally, those who own and/or work at small businesses take the time to get to know their customers and make them feel valued. They bring not only worthwhile goods and services but also character and a sense of community to the neighborhoods that they serve. Yet, in spite of their

contributions, many struggle to stay afloat.

“So many businesses were not able to survive the pandemic and it is going to create a shift in small businesses,” Denice noted. “No one wants to see the end of privately owned companies. If the pandemic wasn’t enough, now we have rising costs that are causing small companies to reorganize their business plans in order to survive the cost of fuel. As owners, it is normal to reassess plans every year, but these few years have kept us on our toes,” she said.

Countless financial and news organizations have written about the importance of supporting small, locally owned businesses. These enterprises create jobs, offer enhanced customer service, and have a greater connection and investment in their communities than nationally or globally owned, big-box stores. A small business owner goes into his neighborhood-based shop or office and interacts with the surrounding community each day. This businessperson listens to customers’ hopes and concerns and shares in their triumphs and tragedies. In all likelihood, the owner of a national retail chain will never interact with, much less see, the residents of the towns and cities in which their establishment operates.

When people chose to shop at and work with a local business, they help not only that business but also the local purveyors with whom that business owner deals. They enter into a symbiotic relationship where everyone wins. According to a 2021 article from the financial advising company The Motley Fool, a community with a thriving local business scene can experience an increase in home values and prospective home buyers. Now, that’s a win-win!

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## COVER STORY

(Continued from page 7)

As a small business, Patriot Pest Solutions makes every effort to be convenient, responsive, and accessible. It is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM and on Saturday from 8 AM to 12 PM. Customers are encouraged to call 610.489.5136 or email: info@patriotpestsolutions.net.

### Resolving an Array of Wildlife Complaints

Whether you have raccoons raiding your garbage can or mice scurrying behind your walls, the certified professionals at Patriot Pest can humanely remove them. A licensed technician will come to your home or business, assess the situation, suggest remediation efforts, and outline steps to prevent future issues.

"Every pest control company takes care of mice," Denice said. "What most don't do are wildlife, like snakes, groundhogs and skunks. A lot of pest control companies will refer their wildlife calls to us. We work hand-in-hand with locally owned companies to take care of their wildlife. That's something that makes us unique."



Patriot Pest Solutions' technicians are state-licensed and specially trained in humane squirrel trapping, removal and exclusion services.

Among the wildlife that Patriot Pest skillfully extracts are squirrels, bats, raccoons, groundhogs, birds, foxes, opossums, skunks, moles, voles, rats, snakes, and, of course, mice. It also removes owls, crows, seagulls, pigeons, doves, and woodpeckers and points out ways to deter the return of all these creatures.

When it comes to insects, Patriot's technicians are adept at rooting out these pesky invaders. Denice noted that some arthropod pests are seasonal. You can expect ants when spring rains push them

out of the ground. Boxelder bugs, those black, elongated, oval-shaped insects with reddish stripes, plague people in the fall when the insects move inside to hibernate and, then again, in the spring when they reemerge to congregate outdoors.

The dusky red, black and white spotted planthoppers known as spotted lanternflies emerge as nymphs in spring. By July they're adults, the size of a quarter, and feasting on the sap of a myriad of plants and trees.

"Spotted lanternflies are slowly moving out of the area," Denice said. "They will continue to be an issue this year, but it really depends on the county in which you live. For lanternflies we come out in the spring and fall and do a systemic treatment that is harmless to the trees but not to the spotted lanternflies.

The treatment varies slightly. In the fall we treat the bark. In the spring we do an injection treatment. Our goal is to save the trees and we have a method to do this, to stop them from killing trees. Everyone's gripe the past few years has been lanternflies. Before that, it was stink bugs, which have now dissipated. Everything has ebbs and flows," she said.

As for the billions of cicadas predicted to hatch last summer after 17 years of being underground, the company received very few calls about the red-eyed, orange-veined, and translucent-winged insect. "It never really became the issue that they had predicted," she said.

Patriot Pest's technicians dispatch a wide range of insects, including fleas, termites, ticks, cockroaches, and the aforementioned ants, lanternflies, and stink bugs. They also tackle the toughest of all infestations, that of bed bugs.



With Patriot Pest Solutions, customers have the choice of either conventional chemicals or heat treatments to eliminate these invasive and prolific blood suckers. Denice observed that bed bug calls have dipped over the past two years and credited this decline to the drastic reduction in travel caused by the coronavirus pandemic. There has not been an uptick in the number of bed bug complaints, yet.

### Employing Low Toxicity Tools to Keep Insects at Bay

Patriot Pest Solutions utilizes an array of low odor, low toxicity tools to eradicate insects. These include baits and traps placed around a property's interior and exterior. To ensure the safety of pets, technicians use only a minute amount of bait in tamper-proof containers and situate them in hard-to-reach locations. Should a cat or dog manage to access and eat the bait, the animal would not be in serious danger. According to Denice, the worst side effect that the animal could experience is an upset stomach.

Another extermination tool that has a little to no impact on humans and their furry companions is TAP® (Thermal Acoustic Pest Control) blown insulation.



Chris Gentile – Bed Bug and Spotted Lantern Fly Specialist



Lynda Smiley – office manager (seated) has been with Patriot Pest Solutions for 7 years. Caryn Dennis (left) has been with the company since 2018.

Registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), TAP® is made from ground up newspaper treated with boric acid. The cellulose fiber insulation is fire-retardant, thermally superior, and sound deadening, and it possesses permanent pest control properties. Note that, unless consumed or inhaled in large quantities, boric acid is acceptable for use around humans and animals. However, for insects such as ants, cockroaches, silverfish, stinkbugs, and termites, the chemical compound is fatal.

Patriot Pest Solutions technicians use TAP® to cap off or replace existing insulation. In the latter scenario, the technicians will remove and dispose of the old insulation, disinfect and repair the targeted area, and then blow in Energy Star-approved, UL-classified TAP®. By employing this environmentally sound product, Patriot Pest protects its customers from bothersome insects, keeps them cool in the summer and warm in the winter, and saves them money on energy bills.

## Keeping Customers Safe and Pest-Free

While the pandemic may have thwarted most aspects of everyday life, it didn't stop the work of Patriot Pest Solutions. "We're essential workers and, as a result, we never shut down," Denice said. "Nursing homes and restaurants can't have rodents and roaches in their kitchens. We can't have homes and businesses unsafe and uninhabitable because of pests."

Patriot Pest Solutions understands that, when it comes to Covid-19, customers may no longer feel as comfortable having someone whom they don't know enter their homes. "In year two of the pandemic, we do have customers who require or request that we only send vaccinated technicians, which we are happy to honor. We must be sure that people feel comfortable with them there," Denice said.

When dealing with insect infestations in commercial or residential properties, customers can count on seeing a Patriot

Pest Solutions technician more than once. As the company notes on its website, one extermination visit produces a temporary fix to a longer-term problem. Once the treatment has worn off, the insects will return. To combat repeated or extended onslaughts, Patriot Pest Solutions offers personalized protection plans adapted to fit both the property and the pest.

The company has also devised two pest control service plans. *Home Pest Protection* provides three scheduled calls to your property. On the initial visit, a technician will evaluate the interior of your residence or commercial space to ensure that all of your pest maintenance needs are being addressed. The next two visits focus on keeping pests out of your home or building. Should bugs make their way inside before your next scheduled appointment, a technician will come out and perform a free, emergency treatment to rid you of these intruders.

The second service plan, *Home Pest Protection Plus*, includes all of the features

of *Home Pest Protection* as well as termite safety. The package features exterior termite monitoring and yearly termite inspection of your home or business. If a technician detects the presence of termites, different remedies will be proposed. Of the two service plans, *Home Pest Protection Plus* is a customer favorite.

**For additional information about Patriot Pest Solutions and its services, to schedule an appointment, or to receive a free quote, call 610.489.5136 or email [info@patriotpestsolutions.net](mailto:info@patriotpestsolutions.net), and visit their website [www.patriotpestsolutions.net](http://www.patriotpestsolutions.net).**

