

Safety is main reason to hire pest-control pros



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By **Shannon Maynard** | Jackson Citizen Patriot



CITIZEN PATRIOT | LIBBY MARCH

Dave Laughlin, left, and Don Shaw have been running Aardvark Pest Control since 1976. Aardvark handles everything from ants to bed bugs to roaches.

Don Shaw and Tom Dzikowicz started Aardvark Pest Control in March 1976. Four months later, Dave Laughlin joined the business and became the third owner. Dzikowicz left the business in 2001.

Both Shaw and Laughlin believe it is important for Jackson residents to keep their money local and want to offer the community a local option for pest control. Shannon Maynard recently sat down with Shaw and Laughlin to discuss the business.

- **Name:** Aardvark Pest Control
- **Owners:** Dave Laughlin and Don Shaw
- **Employees:** Five
- **Address:** 2932 Page Ave.
- **Website:** www.aardvarkpestcontrol.biz
- **Phone:** 782-0422
- **Fun fact:** Aardvark always has been owned by military veterans; all three owners had served.
- **Fast fact:** According to the U.S. Department of Labor, there were about 67,500 pest control workers in 2008.

Question: What does Aardvark offer?

D.L.: We do residential and commercial pest control, which includes remedying problems and also preventing them.

D.S.: We're problem solvers.

Question: Why would someone hire a professional rather than trying to get rid of the pests themselves?

D.S.: Safety.

D.L.: Safety. ... We have training that's put on by the Michigan Pest Management Association and monitored by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. We have to renew our license every three years, and we do that by training. That's how we keep up to date on all the techniques and safety measures.

Question: What types of pests do you handle?

D.S.: Wood-destroying insects, ants, roaches, mice, spiders and bed bugs.

Question: How do you get rid of the pests?

D.S.: We have traps, baits and liquid residuals.

Question: What are some of the most common pests you see in this area?

D.S.: Cockroaches and bed bugs. There's an epidemic of bed bugs right now. They are tough to get rid of. ... Eighty percent of hotels and motels now have bed bugs.

Question: Are there any side effects of your treatments?

D.L.: No. The label requirements are very specific and strict on how we use them.

Question: How is Aardvark different from other pest control businesses?

D.S.: We're the best. We work really hard, and we're honest. We're very competitive.

D.L.: It's not very often you get a manager or owner to come out to do your inspection.

Question: You moved to this location from Ann Arbor Road shortly after the business started. Why was this location chosen?

D.L.: Price and visibility. It's a main thoroughfare.

Question: What is your business' biggest strength?

D.S.: Our personalities, dealing with the people. We have a real loyal customer base. People just wouldn't think of calling anybody else.

Question: What do you hope to provide your customers?

D.L.: Protection of their health and property.