

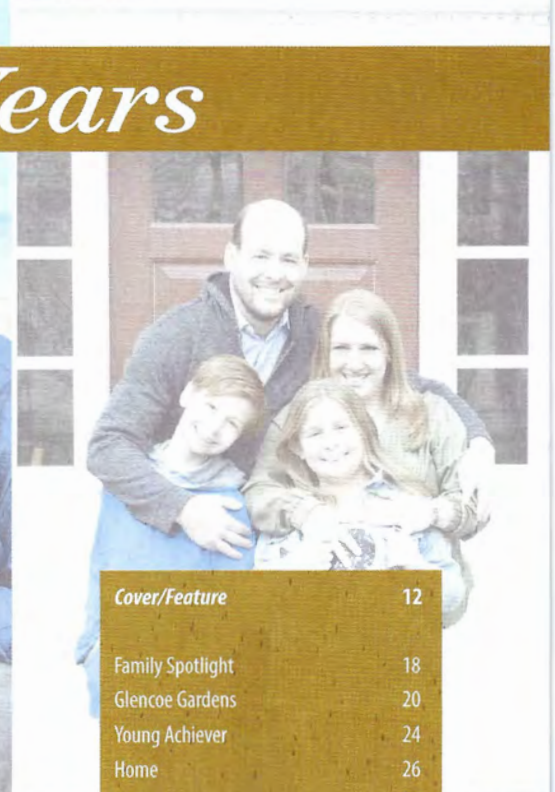
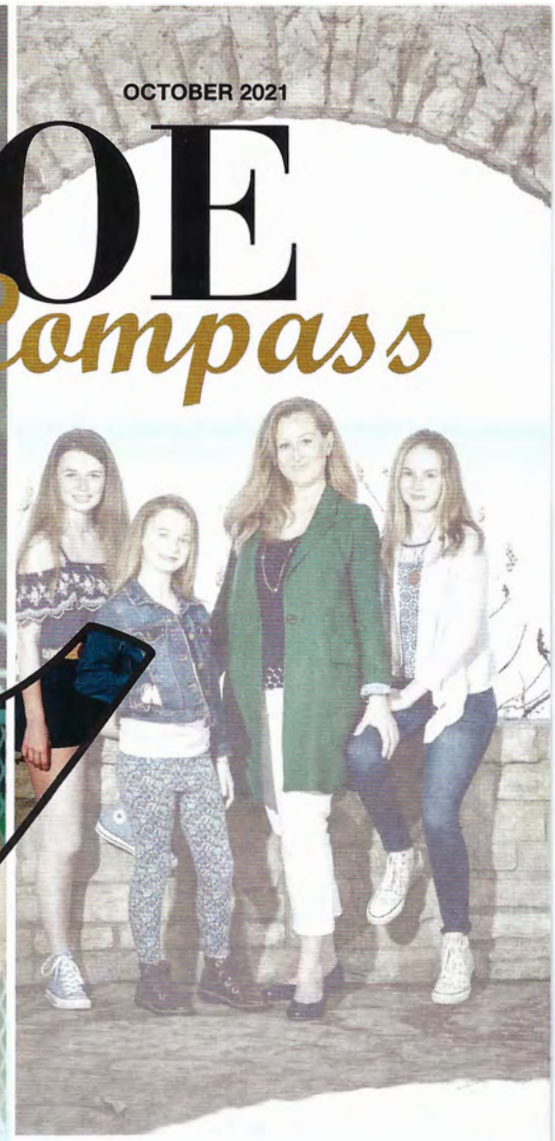
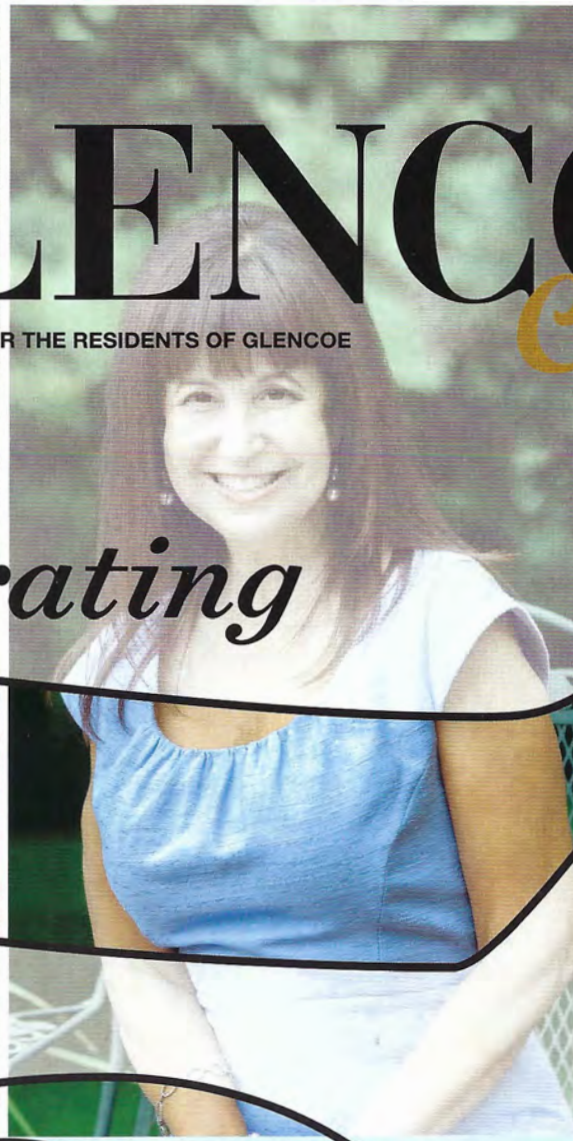
OCTOBER 2021

the GLENCOE Compass

A SOCIAL MAGAZINE EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF GLENCOE

Celebrating

Years



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Home Gardens & Yards *are Personal Nature Preserves*

glencoe gardens

Submitted by **Meridith Clement** for Friends of the Green Bay Trail

Autumn's arrival provides a myriad of opportunities for daily discoveries. It showcases the transitional phases of plants and trees and wildlife's response to shorter days and dwindling food and shelter resources. Birds, bees, and local wildlife have multiform relationships with your landscape. Just a few garden tasks will attract more insects and migrating birds, as well as provide a winter refuge for those that remain.

The season brings a beautiful display of richly colored leaves. It is when days shorten that trees' chlorophyll production wanes, and the green leaf color disappears. Carotenoids, such as beta carotene, linger longer. It is these pigments that give leaves their orange, yellow and red colors. Enjoy the different tree species' leaf color transition, shapes, and seeds, such as nuts and berries.

Keep the leaves! Do not dispose of them. Instead, mow, mulch, or chop leaves. An abundance of creatures such as arthropods (spiders, insects centipedes, etc.) reside and overwinter in leaf debris. Others decompose leaves, which stimulates bacteria and fungi growth that add nutrients to the soil. Leave some leaves whole to incubate food and insects for migrating birds and to maintain a slightly higher soil temperature for dormant plants.



Leave spent blooms and stems with berries in place. Seed heads and berries are vital food resources for migrating birds. Stems also provide attractive winter interest in a snow-covered garden. Collect and clean dried seed heads to scatter next spring and expand your garden's blooms.

Save tree limbs and logs. Leave dead trees in place if safe. Pile limbs in a corner



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of the yard to provide shelter for overwintering birds and small wildlife. A wood stack provides a food source for ground foraging birds. Dead trees and decaying large limbs offer a year-round habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Support your trees through the fall. Trees need more water than lawns. This summer's heat and drought have taken a toll on our large trees. Continue to provide deep root watering until the first frost.

Take a stroll at home. Have your binoculars ready! An inviting home yard will attract a spectrum of birds. Look to see what yard elements attract them. Add those to a spring garden list. Enjoy the daily discoveries.

Stroll the Green Bay Trail to view its seasonal changes and wildlife.



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