

Do you remember the Peanuts comic strip? Every year in October, Linus would go to the pumpkin patch to wait for The Great Pumpkin. If only he'd gone to Donna and John Sabo's house, 3415 Newbury Road—even if he didn't see the Great Pumpkin, he would have found a beautiful autumnal garden, ripe for picking as the October Beauty Spot of the Month.

Donna and John are enthusiastic gardeners, and their yard shows it with a foundation of shrubs, bushes and trees: A camellia at the top of the driveway is perfectly shaped into a round ball and provides an unexpected burst of winter blooms (a lovely pick-me-up to look forward to in the snowy season to come); several holly bushes play against the purple leaves of barberry bush and the round leaves of the azaleas. In the bed in the front of the house, interest continues with azaleas, a crepe myrtle, mugo pines, and nandina. In a bed up the walk on the left side of the house, there is viburnum (Korean Spice plant), loropetalum with its dark green-purple leaves and pretty pink blossoms, and blue rug junipers.

Be sure to notice the variegated liriopse, zebra grass, salvia, spirea, variegated euonymus, and hostas. And there are a few annuals including celosia (with its bright red flames shaped flowers) and petunias. These grasses and plantings provide contrasting color, texture and shapes throughout the beds.

And then there's the vegetable garden... the neighborhood deer are really enjoying the tomatoes and pumpkins from the accidental pumpkin patch. Yes, accidental. Last year Donna set a large pumpkin on their front step as part of their autumnal display. It sat on the stoop well into the winter, even after it was deflated and collapsed. One day, Donna asked John to take care of it and he gently kicked it off the stoop into the bed thinking it would finish decomposing and nourish the soil. Spring came and the pumpkin seeds began to grow. John took the vines and transplanted them to the bed on the side of the house. And lo and behold, they now have a huge pumpkin patch worthy of a visit from the Great Pumpkin.

Congratulations, Donna and John!

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Judelsohn
with Joyce Skoglund
for Country Hill Garden Club