A few tweaks to an indifferent front landscape bring a new attitude to the neighborhood—one of cheerful welcome to all who pass by.

The best thing that could be said for Matt and Julie White’s previous landscape is that it caused no offense—that is, if anyone noticed it.
street presence, including a newly revealed porch with a pair of inviting wicker rockers and shrubs in tall zinc planters.

The broad porch, with French doors from the living room, is one of the home’s most appealing features, says landscape designer Molly Wood, who guided the Whites through the front-yard makeover. Wood’s revisions expand on the porch’s nostalgic charm and realign the entry walk. A pair of crape myrtle trees flank the new walk, which combines stone and brick in square modules. “Once we brought in the bluestone and brick, it brought so much warmth to the house,” she says.

Five evenly spaced boxwood globes span the front, giving structure and permanence to the landscape. Relaxed, flowery plantings, such as the yellow ranunculus and daffodils in this late-winter photo, come and go with the seasons. “The boxwoods are the anchors in the garden,” Wood says. “The rest of the garden moves and changes around the boxwoods.”
A COZY PORCH THAT’S OPEN TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD “The front porch was cut off from the rest of the yard and the community,” landscape designer Molly Wood says. “We took off the rail, removed a Ligustrum hedge, and added steps down to the sod.”

A PATH FOR PEOPLE “There was no proper entry walk,” Wood says. “People had to walk up the driveway.” Visitors now access the front door via square pads of bluestone trimmed in brick. Narrow strips of turfgrass separate the squares, which step up slightly with the change in grade from the street to the house.

See Matt and Julie White’s idea-packed backyard in the current issue of Deck, Patio & Pool™ magazine, on newsstands through May 19.