

# edge

DOING & DINING GUIDE™

**SPLISH  
SPLASH**  
List Of Local  
Beaches &  
Waterparks

**OUTDOOR  
DINING**  
Including H<sub>2</sub>O Views

**RECIPE**  
Local Chef  
Fires Up The Grill

Walk to Food, Fun &  
Shopping While  
**TRAIN  
HOPPING**



# home improvement

## DRIVEWAY, WALKWAY AND PATIO TRENDS

by Janice Long

If natural stone is in the budget, there are endless options for single use or combinations of natural and manufactured materials. "Natural stone is used in about 75 percent of our projects," says Chris Pronek, lead designer at **Millieu Design, Inc. (847) 756-4146** in Barrington. "Cobblestone is being used more and more - either for an entire area or for borders and accents." Both bluestone, with its smooth surface, and flagstone are commonly used. "Patios are getting a cottage-type feel by adding grass or moss between the pavers," says Pronek. "This allows water to soak back into the soil easily." To soften the look of the house even more, he uses stepping-stones. Patios are now outfitted with seat walls, arbors and pergolas to create enclosed areas. Sloping backyard terrain is often made accessible with steps of outcrop stone, favored by natural stone lovers due to its irregular shapes and flat surfaces, reports Pronek. More natural stone choices will soon be available from Arizona and Tennessee, he says. "They have deeper reds and browns, which are quite different from the traditional Wisconsin stone used here in the Midwest." Another new concept, according to Pronek, is the plastic two-foot by two-foot grid to which small pavers are glued. Similar to indoor tiles fastened to a square mesh sheet, these grids are perfect applications for those small, troublesome areas.



You can turn your driveway from an eyesore to a stately entryway.