

Family fun for less: Set up an outdoor theater

STAFF REPORT

Even the price of a matinee movie too much to stomach?

Perhaps a temporary outdoor theater at your home is just the ticket.

"It's easier and more cost effective than you might think," said Paul Holstein, chief operating officer of eTailer CableOrganizer.com, "and much more fun."

AMONG THE BASICS

■ **Video screen:** White bed-sheets, blackout cloth, canvas drop-cloths, plywood, backer board or a smooth white wall will work well.

■ **Projector:** Use an old LCD or DLP projector or buy one used at a garage sale or through classified ads. New projectors run \$500 to \$1,500.

■ **DVD player:** What you use inside should work fine, but new models can cost less than \$50.

■ **Speakers:** Old stereo speakers will be adequate, though Surround Sound or dedicated outdoor speakers will sound better.

■ **Outdoor extension cord:** It'll withstand the weather and the wear and tear found outdoors. Leave the

brown cord connecting the five lamps in the living room inside.

AMONG THE EXTRAS

■ **Video game console:** If a movie's too long to watch, connect the Xbox or PS3 to the projector and see how long the neighbors can stand "Rock Band."

■ **Surge protector:** Don't disconnect the computer. Use a simple surge-suppressing power strip like the SocketSense adjustable surge protector.

■ **Cord cover:** Outdoor extension cords may be concealed and made safe from falls with a cover like Rubber Ducts by Electriduct.

■ **Rolling equipment cart:** This cuts down on hauling time and prevents lifting injuries and perhaps toes from receiving an unwelcome blow.

■ **Light strands:** Something as simple as strands of Christmas tree lights around the "theater" perimeter provide just enough light to prevent trips.

For additional solutions, visit <http://CableOrganizer.com>.

