

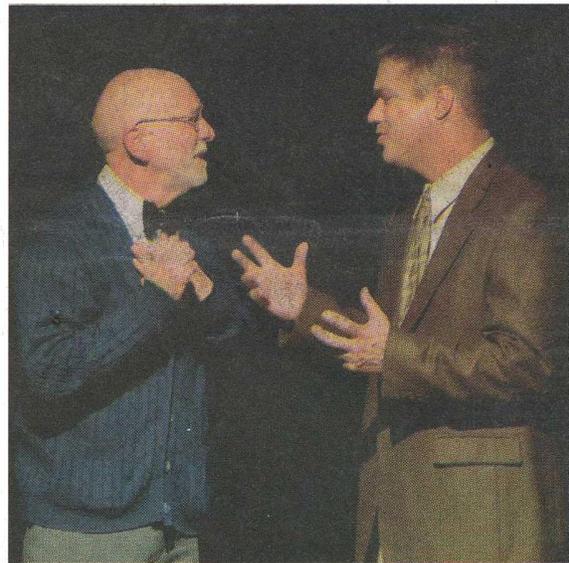
Weekend edition, November 28, 2008

MORGAN HILL TIMES

## 'It's A Wonderful Life' hits the stage

ABOVE: The cast of 'It's a Wonderful Life' rehearses at the South Valley Civic Theater Monday night. RIGHT: George Bailey (Scott Lynch), right, talks to Uncle Billy (Bill Corneth) during rehearsals. BELOW: George and his wife Mary Hatch (Susan Foster) during rehearsals.

Tickets are \$18 for general admission, \$14 for seniors and children and are available at [www.svct.org](http://www.svct.org), BookSmart, the Gilroy Visitors Bureau and the Morgan Hill Community Center.



**'IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE'**

**When:** 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, Nov. 29, Dec. 13 and 20, and at 8 p.m. Fridays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19

**Where:** Morgan Hill Community Playhouse on Monterey Road at Fifth Street

**Details:**  
[www.svct.org](http://www.svct.org)

PHOTOS BY LORA SCHRAFT • STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER • [lschraft@svnewspapers.com](mailto:lschraft@svnewspapers.com)

## Morgan Hill Observer

### “It’s a Wonderful Life” at the Community Playhouse

Dec 09, 2008, by Jessica Fromm |



In current economic conditions, “It’s a Wonderful Life” is the type of story that many people can relate to. The tale of down and out George Bailey and the guardian angel assigned to convince him not to commit suicide, the film version starring James Stewart and Donna Reed has become mandatory Christmas viewing in many households.

Focusing on the joy and hope that the holiday season brings, South Valley Civic Theater (SVCT) rounds out their 40th Anniversary year with a production of this classic yuletide drama.



For over four decades, SVCT has been providing South County with charming community theater. The all-volunteer, non-profit drama organization is entirely supported by donations, ticket and concession sales, grants and memberships.

Holiday sprit was in full force at the Dec. 5 performance at the Morgan Hill Community Playhouse. Heavy on the sweetness and family oriented fun, the play was done in an endearing community theater fashion. Clad in sweaters and coats on the crisp evening, audience members included families with children and cotton-candy-haired older ladies, all out to enjoy a night of

theater Morgan Hill-style.



It's interesting to note that this is the first community theater appearance for both lead actors in the production. Gilroy native Scott Lynch, who plays main character George Bailey, hasn't been involved in acting or theater since appearing as Charlie in the Gilroy High School production of "Flowers for Algernon." Morgan Hill home schooling mother Susan Foster, who plays George's wife Mary Hatch Bailey, had never acted before auditioning for "It's a Wonderful Life."



Other new faces to SVCT were Morgan Hill Times reporter Natalie Everett as Mrs. Thompson, fourth grader Shannon Murphy as Janie Bailey, 11-year-old Dane Weber as Pete Bailey, Hampton Hoge as Mr. Grower and Chris McCann as Young George.

"It's a Wonderful Life's" simple set incorporated a three-panned background onto which a road and town buildings were painted. Window frames, rectangular doorways and chairs were brought in as props to indicate interiors. From fedoras to buckled shoes, costume director Terri Miles dressed all the plays characters in 1940s attire, adhering to the setting of the original 1946 movie.



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*IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, a South Valley Civic Theater Production, plays Dec. 12, 13, 19, and 20 at 8pm, and Dec. 13 at 2pm, at the Morgan Hill Community Playhouse at 17090 Monterey Road in Morgan Hill. Tickets are \$14-18. Visit [www.svct.org](http://www.svct.org) for more information.*