

# EVANS

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“It’s just my favorite dance number where I get to be very character-ey in my performance,” he said. “I like ‘Marian The Librarian’ because it’s just my favorite song in the show and has been described as having the most Disney-esque blocking, and it definitely feels like it too.”

While stage work is what Evans does for a living, it’s not exactly work for the 24-year-old entertainer.

“This is genuinely the most fun experience I’ve ever had,” he said. “The whole scope of it is just amazing. We come and show up for work. It’s work, but playful work. To come in with all these incredible people, their own talent — things you might not think of yourself. Genuinely, it’s so much fun. Everyday there is something new, new nuances. We giggle and enjoy every second of it.”

## IN THE BEGINNING

Evans grew up on a farm, north of Litchfield — the third of four boys in the family of Tom and Lisa Cox. He started performing on stage in eighth grade but said he’s been “singing and dancing my way through life since I could walk and talk!”

“Being a little theater kid it can be tricky in a small town like Litchfield,” he said. “They see that light and that passion and were so supportive.”

Evans’ first stage role was playing one of the Lollipop kids in a production of “The Wizard of Oz.”

“Our choir director was helping with it and he recruited a bunch of us choir kids to be munchkins,” he said. “It took off from there.”

He continued with Litchfield High School fall musicals as his love of singing turned into a passion. It was a high school trip to New York City that led Evans to consider a stage career. During the trip, the students attended a workshop featuring the cast members of the Broadway play “Wicked.”

“We sang one of the opening songs,” he remembered. “Afterward, one of the accompanists asked me if I had considered (a career) in musical theater, singing? I laughed it off and moved on. That night we saw ‘Wicked’

# MICKA

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concocted and the actions that followed. The two men who later arrested Tupa also testified, recounting the man’s confession that he gave on the way to the county jail.

Tupa entered the stand and claimed that he did not remember making any confession, and that he was severely ill on the day he was arrested. He even went so far as to say that Sherriff Beihoffer drugged him with white pills. Though he refused to admit guilt in the planning of the crime, Tupa did agree that he played a role in aiding Johnson with disposing of the body.

The jury deliberated for over 24 hours. Then, on a Friday afternoon in November, the jury assembled in front of the court and gave a verdict of “not guilty.” Prosecutors immediately charged Tupa with being an accessory to the crime. For this Tupa plead guilty and was sentenced to one to five years in Stillwater Prison. Johnson would serve a life sentence, however.

The case of Frank Micka’s murder was finally over. Both men served their sentence, yet it is unclear as to what happened to them afterward. It’s a likely possibility that Johnson never walked again as a free man. For Micka, his family could now put the horrible killing of their loved one behind them. For Mcleod County, people could rest easy knowing the case had been solved.

Brian Haines is executive director of the McLeod County Historical Society and Museum, 380 School Road N.W., Hutchinson. The museum is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, 1-4 p.m. Saturday and by appointment. Admission is free. For more information, call the museum at 320-587-2109.

— the way the orchestra played, the opening sequence is powerful, an exciting spectacle. Our seats were in the balcony and although every person on stage was the size of an ant, when the orchestra played the overture, my heart just shifted. That was it for me. This was going to be my life. It was so magical.”

One of the highlights of these years was attending a performance of “Fiddler on the Roof” at Chanhassen. A friend of his grandmother’s had won two tickets on the radio. She gave them to Evans’s grandmother and told her to take him. The experience was a dream moment for the young actor.

Facing his high school graduation in 2015, it was time for Evans to think about college. He admitted he hadn’t set himself up for a lot of opportunities. Fortunately, two schools in Minnesota had excellent theater departments — Minnesota State University Mankato and the University of Minnesota at Duluth.

“When it came down to it, I was accepted into Mankato,” he said. “It was a blessing in disguise. In my four years, I did 23 productions and that’s unheard of. It was crazy.”

Following his college graduation in 2019 with a degree in musical theater and a minor in dance, Evans hit the ground to find work. He was lucky to be booked right away by a small theater company in Minneapolis. It was the first off-Broadway company to produce “Night of the Living Dead: The Musical.” He was cast as the lead.

## LIFE ON THE HIGH SEAS

“After that, I booked my dream with a cruise line,” he said. “I closed the show on a Sunday, stayed with my parents for one night and then flew out to Florida. It was all right before the pandemic. We were



**Fresh out of college, Mitchell Evans, center, got his start on stage playing the lead in “Night of the Living Dead: The Musical!” in 2019 at the Minneapolis Musical Theatre.**

SUBMITTED PHOTO

three months on the sea before we all got back home.”

Evans was hired as a dancer with Carnival Cruise Lines. He described rehearsals for five 40-minute shows as a “most intense process.”

“Nothing I had done prepared me for it,” he said. “It was insane. We rehearsed in a little dinky town 45 miles from Miami. It was in a big warehouse where they have state-of-the-art rehearsal studios. We had to learn five shows. I was hired as a dancer. When I lived in Litchfield, boys didn’t have a lot of opportunities to dance, so I didn’t take training until I went to Mankato.”

During his tenure at sea, Evans was part of an eight-person ensemble that performed high-energy shows featuring a variety of music.

“We were a small, tight-knit group,” he recalled. “Ship life, what’s more than waking up and going up to the deck and seeing the sun rise and set on this vast ocean? There’s nothing that beats that. The traveling was incredible. It was the clearest blue ocean,

white sandy beaches, and at times lonely, quiet and claustrophobic. Your life is a constant repeat. Because we were on a cruise ship, we didn’t understand what was going on with the pandemic. We have to pay for internet on the ship, so we save money by not using it.”

The next thing Evans said they knew, people were fighting over toilet paper at Walmart. They wondered, “What’s going on?”

“We were three months in and our ship was going into dry dock for construction,” he said. “They gave us an option to go home for three weeks. When we touched ground the severity of what was happening hit us. Our cast was from all over the globe. After the second week of vacation, the governor shut down the state. Everything was in limbo. Then it was a year and a half of nothing.”

## MOVING ON

Once Evans realized that cruise ships weren’t an opportunity for him for a while,

he packed up and moved to St. Paul. He lived near the University of St. Thomas, where he found work at a variety of jobs including an animal humane society, waiting tables and a call center.

“This summer is when theater started to come back to life in the area,” he said. “It was July when I did my first production in one-and-a-half years. ‘Mamma Mia’ is such a fun show. It was at the Zephyr in Stillwater. They had really powerhouse talent. I played (the male lead) Sky. It was such an incredible opportunity. ... Being back doing what we were doing, the first day in the room, there was nothing like that. We were overwhelmed to be back in our world again. It hasn’t stopped from there.”

It was a few weeks later that Evans made his debut at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres. His dream theater.

“We’re at the level of Broadway, but a more obtainable community,” he said. “You don’t have to go to New York to see an incredible show. The cast starts the show and it’s exactly where I want to be. It’s a full circle motion from seeing ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ to being on stage every day, to be with people who inspired this theater nerd. It’s been such a humbling experience.”

For the next several months, Evans will have job security. He has been cast in the role of Bickle in the next Chanhassen Main Stage production, “Footloose,” opening Jan. 28 and running through Sept. 4.

“Chanhassen is always going to feel like home for me,” he said. “It’s a place I see myself working for as long as they let me.”

Looking back on his career, Evans couldn’t be prouder of his parents and they of him.

## How to buy tickets for ‘The Music Man’

The following is the performance schedule for “The Music Man”:

- Thursday: 6 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. show start
- Friday: 6 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. show start
- Saturday matinee: 11 a.m. lunch; 1 p.m. show start
- Saturday evening: 6 p.m. dinner; 8 p.m. show start
- Sunday: 4:30 p.m. dinner, 6:30 p.m. show start
- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 6 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. show start
- Wednesday matinee: 11 a.m. lunch, 1 p.m. show start
- Wednesday evening: 6 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. show start

Tickets are available for dinner and show and show only. To order tickets, visit chanhassendt.com or call the box office at 800-362-3515.

Next up? “Footloose,” Jan. 28 through Sept. 24, 2022. Tickets are on sale now. To order call the box office number listed above.

“It was a learning curve for all of us,” he said. “My mom has a kid who works at Chanhassen. My dad, he used to be, ‘I don’t like singing and dancing and music.’ His growth and the way he’s come to these shows, he’s so proud. I’m proud of them, as well, for putting up with me and allowing me to live my truth and pursue my dream. They have been nothing but supportive to take this journey.”

# RATE INCREASE NOTICE

## XCEL ENERGY MINNESOTA ELECTRIC PRICES

Interim Change in Electric Rates Starting January 1, 2022

### XCEL ENERGY’S RATE INCREASE REQUEST

Xcel Energy has asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for an increase in electric rates to be phased in over a three-year period beginning Jan. 1, 2022. The requested increase for 2022 is about 12.2% or \$396.0 million. Xcel Energy requested an additional 4.8% or \$150.2 million for 2023, and an additional 4.2% or \$131.2 million for 2024. The total increase requested for the three-year period is 21.2% or \$677.3 million.

State law allows Xcel Energy to collect higher rates on an interim (temporary) basis beginning Jan. 1, 2022, while the MPUC reviews Xcel Energy’s request. The total interim rate increase for 2022 is 8.1% or \$247.1 million over total current rates. This appears on customer bills as an Interim Rate Adjustment and is calculated as a percentage of base rates. Base rates include the Basic Service Charge, Energy Charge, and, if it applies, the Demand Charge. The Interim Rate Adjustment does not apply to charges for fuel and cost recovery riders. The Interim Rate Adjustment for residential customers is billed as an 8.92% increase, or \$5.54 per month, for a typical residential customer using 601 kWh. The Interim Rate Adjustment for all other customers is billed as a 13.52% increase.

Because Xcel Energy is requesting a multiyear rate plan, the company is requesting an increase to the interim rate starting Jan. 1, 2023. If approved, the company will provide additional details before this increase happens.

The MPUC will likely make its decision on the overall rate request in 2023. If final rates are lower than interim rates, Xcel Energy will refund the difference with interest. If final rates are higher than interim rates, Xcel Energy will not charge customers the difference.

### WHY IS XCEL ENERGY ASKING FOR AN INCREASE?

Xcel Energy’s last request for a rate increase was in 2015, when it received approval for its current multiyear rate plan. Under that plan, Xcel Energy’s base electric rates increased in 2016, 2017 and 2019. During this time, Xcel Energy has continually invested in strengthening the energy grid and enhancing the reliability of the service our customers count on while expanding clean energy. These projects are key to meeting our customers’ needs today and in the future, as we build toward our vision of providing 100% carbon-free electricity to customers by 2050. A three-year rate plan provides Xcel Energy and our customers with more predictable rates for a longer period.

### WHAT IS XCEL ENERGY DOING TO CONTROL COSTS?

- Providing energy conservation options such as weatherization, LED lighting measures and energy design assistance for new construction projects to help customers manage energy use and save money on their bills. This also helps to delay generation investments.
- Reviewing and monitoring our business to minimize operating and maintenance cost increases.
- Operating power plants efficiently.
- Using a variety of fuel sources to manage costs and protect the environment.

### HOW WILL THE RATE CHANGE AFFECT MONTHLY BILLS?

The proposed rate increase will affect individual monthly bills differently depending on electricity use and customer type. The proposed rate increase mainly affects the Basic Service Charge, Energy Charge, and, if it applies, the Demand Charge. These charges cover the cost of providing electric service and represent about 66% of your total bill. This rate increase request does not affect the Fuel Cost Charge.

### HELP WITH BILLS

If you are having trouble making regular payments on your Xcel Energy account, contact us as soon as possible. We’ll work with you to arrange a payment plan and connect you to other resources that can help.

### WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR REVIEWING XCEL ENERGY’S RATE INCREASE REQUEST?

The MPUC, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the Office of the Attorney General Residential Utilities and Antitrust Division, public interest groups, and large commercial and industrial customer groups will review and investigate our request.

The MPUC will hold public hearings and accept written comments about our rate increase request. Customers and others will be able to comment on our rate increase request at public hearings. You may add verbal comments, written comments, or both into the record. Notice of public hearing dates and locations will be published in local newspapers and included in monthly bills.

### TO LEARN MORE

Xcel Energy’s current and proposed rate schedules are available at:

- Xcel Energy**
- Online: [xcelenergy.com/2022MNRates](https://www.xcelenergy.com/2022MNRates)
- Phone: 800-895-4999
- U.S. Mail: 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401

### Minnesota Department of Commerce

- Online: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>
- Select 21 in the year field, enter 630 in the number field, click on Search, and the list of documents will appear on the next page.

### PROPOSED CHANGES FOR MONTHLY ELECTRICITY BASE RATES

This chart shows the current and proposed electricity base rates for each customer type.

#### AVERAGE MONTHLY BILLS

Customer type	Average 2022 monthly kWh usage	Current monthly cost	2022 Interim monthly increase	Proposed 2022 monthly cost	Proposed 2022 monthly increase	Proposed 2023 monthly increase*	Proposed 2024 monthly increase**
Residential – Overhead line service	514	\$77.57	\$4.98	\$87.49	\$9.92	\$12.27	\$14.75
Residential – Underground line service	752	\$111.78	\$7.13	\$125.60	\$13.81	\$17.24	\$20.87
Energy-Controlled (Dual Fuel)	1,019	\$93.43	\$6.85	\$106.40	\$12.97	\$17.78	\$21.41
Small General Service	794	\$109.15	\$10.21	\$119.10	\$9.95	\$12.46	\$14.63
Small General Time-of-Day Service	1,089	\$134.93	\$12.01	\$147.71	\$12.78	\$15.72	\$18.21
General Service	14,670	\$1,679.88	\$145.19	\$1,867.18	\$187.30	\$213.28	\$226.47
General Time-of-Day Service	123,490	\$11,699.82	\$918.85	\$12,966.05	\$1,266.24	\$1,326.92	\$1,872.25
Peak-Controlled Service	67,093	\$9,040.31	\$825.69	\$10,100.96	\$1,060.65	\$1,265.88	\$1,383.12
Peak-Controlled Time-of-Day Service	605,194	\$66,153.60	\$5,562.15	\$73,651.86	\$7,498.26	\$9,421.86	\$11,190.54
Small Municipal Pumping	615	\$86.84	\$8.22	\$94.79	\$7.96	\$9.77	\$12.84
Municipal Pumping	8,369	\$1,082.84	\$98.44	\$1,202.67	\$119.83	\$152.06	\$166.11

\* Cumulative: 2022 + 2023

\*\* Cumulative: 2022 + 2023 + 2024

### ENERGY (PER KWH) AND DEMAND (PER KW) RATES

Customer type	Current	Proposed 2022	Proposed 2023	Proposed 2024
<b>Residential</b>				
Energy: Summer (June-September)	10.301 ¢	12.994 ¢	13.748 ¢	14.453 ¢
Energy: Winter (Other months)	8.803 ¢	11.285 ¢	11.980 ¢	12.640 ¢
Energy: Winter – Electric heating	5.988 ¢	8.136 ¢	8.831 ¢	9.491 ¢
<b>Small Commercial</b>				
Energy: Summer	9.256 ¢	11.372 ¢	11.980 ¢	12.554 ¢
Energy: Winter	7.757 ¢	9.663 ¢	10.212 ¢	10.740 ¢
<b>Small General Time-of-Day</b>				
Energy: On-Peak Summer	14.880 ¢	18.449 ¢	19.586 ¢	20.560 ¢
Energy: On-Peak Winter	11.723 ¢	14.679 ¢	15.686 ¢	16.558 ¢
Energy: Off-Peak	4.170 ¢	5.506 ¢	5.677 ¢	5.918 ¢
<b>General</b>				
Energy	3.407 ¢	4.738 ¢	4.993 ¢	5.213 ¢
Demand: Summer	\$14.79	\$17.48	\$18.10	\$18.52
Demand: Winter	\$10.49	\$12.89	\$13.50	\$13.92
<b>General Time-of-Day</b>				
Energy: On-Peak	4.855 ¢	6.502 ¢	6.851 ¢	7.154 ¢
Energy: Off-Peak	2.341 ¢	3.422 ¢	3.606 ¢	3.765 ¢
Demand: Summer	\$14.79	\$17.48	\$18.10	\$18.52
Demand: Winter	\$10.49	\$12.89	\$13.50	\$13.92

**Note:** Proposed lighting rate changes vary according to the type of lighting. The proposed final increase is 23.9% for full-service street lighting, 15.6% for energy-only street lighting service, and 23.9% for residential and commercial protective lighting.

- Phone:** 651-539-1500 or 800-657-3782
- U.S. Mail:** 85 Seventh Place East, Suite 280 St. Paul, MN 55101

Citizens with hearing or speech disabilities may call through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

### The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission is asking customers to comment on Xcel Energy’s request for a rate increase.

#### Send comments to:

- Phone:** 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782
- Email:** [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)
- Online:** <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments/> See section “How to Submit a Comment” to find a list of ways to comment.
- U.S. Mail:** 121 7th Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101

Be sure to reference docket number 21–630.

### Important

Public comments may be read by anyone who reviews the case record. Except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, the MPUC does not edit or delete personally identifying information from submissions.

### MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGES

Customer type	Current	Proposed
<b>Residential</b>		
Overhead line	\$8.00	\$9.50
Overhead line – Electric heating	\$10.00	\$11.50
Underground line	\$10.00	\$11.50
Underground line – Electric heating	\$12.00	\$13.50
<b>Small Commercial</b>		
Small General	\$10.00	\$11.50
Small General Time-of-Day	\$12.00	\$13.50
<b>Commercial and Industrial</b>		
General	\$25.64	\$25.98
General Time-of-Day	\$29.64	\$29.98
Peak-Controlled	\$55.00	\$60.00
Peak-Controlled Time-of-Day	\$55.00	\$60.00

