



Rosemount dads are the headliners for benefit concert

By [Tad Johnson](#)

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Veteran Twin Cities rocker Tim Mahoney to open benefit concert



The Prospects are (from left) Doug Molitor, Matt Brokl, Darrin Cresswell, Paul Jacobson and Tony Vega (below). (Photo submitted)

A bunch of [Rosemount](#) area dads will be able to say some day that Tim Mahoney was their opening act after Saturday night's gig at the Rosemount VFW.

Mahoney, a stalwart of the Twin Cities music scene for the past 15 years and a contestant on the NBC megahit show "The Voice," is the unlikely opening act after Rosemount resident Greg Baune placed the highest bid to secure the rocker's services.

Baune was thrilled to have won the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society auction item, but then he needed a big enough venue to house a Mahoney concert.

He found his answer after calling his friends in The Prospects, who practice and play often at the VFW.

That's when another connection was made.

The concert will benefit Rosemount VFW causes and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the latter of which is an organization that is close to the heart of VFW manager and longtime Rosemount resident Lisa Calafat.

Calafat, who has worked at the VFW since 2012, is going on her sixth year as a lymphoma survivor.

It's remarkable that Calafat is still tending bar these days after her May 2008 diagnosis revealed she had cancerous cells "from her head to her toes."

"At that point, it's all out of your hands, there's nothing you can do," she said.

An aggressive series of chemotherapy treatments beat back the Stage 4 cancer, which she battled for about a year using frequent shots to boost her immune system that was already weak due to Crohn's disease.

"I wasn't ready to go," Calafat said. "My family is pretty strong."

She said she helped organize this benefit as a way of giving back to the community that held a fundraiser for her as she attempted to keep up with medical bills when she was battling cancer.

"I would have lost my house if it wasn't for this community," she said.

Calafat, who also worked for about nine years each for the Rosemount American Legion and Shenanigan's, still goes in for checkups every six months so doctors can ensure the cancer has not returned.

"I've been in the community and bartended here for a long time," she said. "It is a beautiful community. I've seen people help others in so many ways."

The members of The Prospects have been working with Calafat for the past two months to schedule a date for the Mahoney appearance.

The group formed about six years ago when neighbors Matt Brokl and Doug Molitor were talking one day about their mutual longing to play in a band again.

Brokl, who was playing guitar in a band at Easter Lutheran Church in Eagan with drummer Darrin Cresswell, suggested the three could play at a neighborhood birthday party.

“Then everything took off from there,” Brokl said.

The band has pulled in Paul Jacobson and Tony Vega since then and played at venues such as O’Gara’s in St. Paul and Mississippi Mud in Inver Grove Heights.

“For us it’s all about staying involved with music,” Brokl said. “All of us are channeling our inner musical child.”

Make that inner teenager.

The band covers a wide range of material, including songs from Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughn, U2 and Foo Fighters.

“We play what people want to hear, something they can dance to and is lively,” Brokl said. “We are really having fun.”

The Prospects, who also will play a May 2 Moms and Neighbors fundraiser at Carbone’s in Rosemount, enjoy the idea of helping others, which also explains their allegiance to the VFW.

“The VFW has been so good to us, and we consider that our home base,” Brokl said. “What a great group of people they are to open their doors to us who might not fit with their stereotypical crowd. ... It’s been a great symbiotic relationship.”

Benefit concert

A concert to benefit veterans service programs and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society will be held from 6 p.m. to closing time Saturday, April 12, at the Rosemount VFW, 2625 120th St.

Mahoney will open the concert from 6-8 p.m. with The Prospects to follow.

Tickets, which are tax deductible and can be purchased at the door, are \$10 each with an additional \$10 suggested donation.

More information is at www.theprospectsrock.com.

Mahoney will also play the Concert For A Cause to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at The Pantages Theatre in Minneapolis.

Tickets for that show range from \$25 to \$100 with VIP treatment.

To purchase tickets for the April 19 show, call the box office at 1-800-982-2787 or visit <http://bit.ly/1gggb6G>.

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