

# Our Towns

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## Eastern High graduates unite

### Alumni association forms at Voorhees school

By **RACHEL MISENKO**  
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#### VOORHEES

A few graduates of Eastern Regional High School are aiming to bring their classmates back together by forming an alumni association.

The group has been working with the school since May to create an official organization for former Eastern High School students to reconnect.

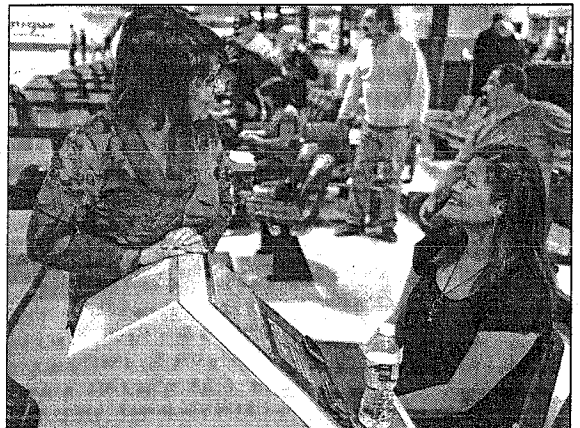
"We've had a lot of failed attempts in the past to orga-

nize one solid alumni association," said Tony Rahil, president and 2000 graduate. "This one is going to be the official association for all the people that graduated from Eastern and are still interested in the school and what's going on."

Though the organization is still in its infancy, Rahil said the organization already has about 1,000 tentative members. The group is looking to create a Web site to make it easier to learn more about Eastern and its graduates.

To help kick off the year, the alumni association organized a bowling event at La Martinique Bowling Center in Stratford on Feb. 21. For \$10, Eastern alumni gathered for a night of bowling, pizza and fun.

"It's an opportunity for people to get together who may not have graduated in the same year," said Tracy Borden, alumni association treasurer and 1986 graduate. "I think we're going to try to do something every three or



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Maria Pepe (left) and Rosi Parilla-Shea speak at a recent Eastern Regional High School alumni bowling party in Stratford.

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four months now."

Rahil said the organization is planning a basketball tournament at Eastern High School in late March.

For now, the group meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month at the school's library.

During the meetings, which are open to all alumni, Rahil said the group discusses upcoming events and how to let others know about the organization.

"A lot of people may not know we're trying to do this, so we want to get the word out," Borden added. "I think it's nice to see people you went to school with."

The alumni association has a Facebook group

### FAMOUS EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

- Eastern Regional High School has been home to several well-known personalities. Tracy Borden, alumni association treasurer and 1986 graduate, says among the most famous are:
- Kelly Ripa, actress and talk show host (class of 1989)
- Ali Gorman, Action News health correspondent (class of 1993)

- Christopher Canty, played for New England Patriots from 1997 to 2001 (class of 1993)
- Adam Taliaferro, founder of the Taliaferro Foundation for athletes with spinal cord injuries (class of 2000)
- Rachel Dawson, member of the 2008 USA Olympic field hockey team (class of 2003)

where former peers can get in touch via the social networking Web site.

The group is also looking to create a scholarship fund for current Eastern Regional High School students. Rahil said he hopes to collect donations from alumni as well as sponsorships from local organizations.

"I think you may not re-

alize it back then, but high school is an important time in your life," Borden said. "This is where you started your adult life and it's good to give back to where you came from."

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