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NORTHJERSEY.COM COMMUNITY

Ridgewood Village Voices: Laura Johnson

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2013
THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS

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Occupation and volunteer position: Vice president of marketing for Manhattan Labs; Ridgewood Education Foundation board trustee.

Age: 39 or Faux 40, as I like to say.

How long I have lived in Ridgewood: More than 20 years. I'm a Ridgewood High School grad who came back after having my children.

Interests and hobbies: Walking, swimming, traveling and being outdoors as much as possible.

My favorite place to relax in Ridgewood: My backyard.

A "perfect day" in Ridgewood would include: Breakfast with my son in my backyard which would stretch into coffee on the patio with my husband, lunch at Sook with my daughter, hitting tennis balls to my dog Coco in the backyard, ice cream at Van Dyk's and then having my awesome girlfriends over for drinks and laughs in our backyard.

The best-kept secret in the village: I grew up on Hillcrest and we had the best woods behind our house. Fabulous for walking and exploring!

The best thing about Ridgewood: There is such



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Laura Johnson gets ready to hit a tennis ball to her dog Coco in her backyard.

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a great community spirit here.

One thing I would like to change in the village: Stop the East versus West. We are ONE town and should be supporting each other in all issues [Ridgewood](#) — not by the area that you live in.

The best part of my job: Being part of a young, growing company.

The most difficult part of my job: Getting people to communicate effectively.

The big decision I'm currently wrestling with: How do I find time for myself?

I am most proud of: I like to challenge myself often. My recent challenge – to train for the Tough Mudder this October!

Something that no one knows about me: I like to get lost, especially in foreign places.

The quality I like best about myself: I don't rush to the crisis point immediately.

The quality I like least about myself: I procrastinate.

My motto: Everything happens for a reason.

I laugh at: Sarcasm and slightly inappropriate things.

I am really good at: Listening and empathizing.

I admire: My husband, Dennis, who started his own construction business and is now also a volunteer [Ridgewood](#) firefighter!

One skill every person should have: Dealing with difficult people.

A favorite memory: Visiting my grandparents when they lived in the Seychelles and swimming in the most beautiful secret waterfall.

Before I die, I'd like to: Travel around South America and the Galapagos Islands.

Book I am currently reading: "Lean In" by Sheryl Sandberg.

Something that's been on my mind lately: Being present and aware.

Something that scares me: Watching families in a restaurant stare at their mobile devices instead of talking with each other.

I will never understand: Intolerance.

I wish I could invent: Time travel machine.

I get embarrassed when: I have to step on the scale. I need to lose this baby weight, once and for all!

My guilty pleasure: Cheese! The food, as well as cheesy moments in life.

Something you'd never guess about me: I don't like cheesecake.

A talent I would like to have: To be an amazing cook.



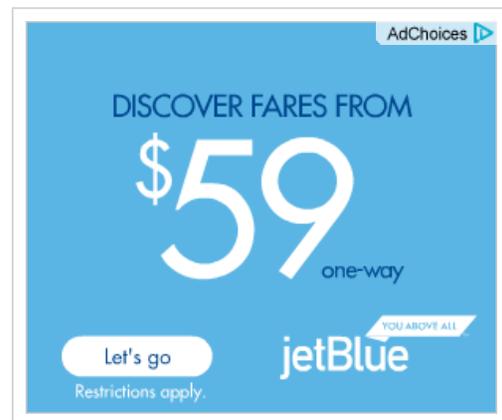
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My greatest regret: Not going to my grandfather's funeral in England. Instead, I chose to stay at work for a new job.

My favorite journey: I took a semester off in college. I learned to speak Spanish in Mexico and how to scuba dive in Costa Rica. So many wonderful memories and lessons learned.

My most treasured possession: My family.

Something I wish you asked me: Why should Ridgewood residents care about the Ridgewood Education Foundation?

And my answer! As an alumnae and a parent, the Ridgewood schools are so important. My support of the foundation is how I can help both the Ridgewood schools and the community stay great!

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