

Last Monday I was given the opportunity to do something that hasn't been done by kids my own age in Acushnet in a long time. This opportunity was to go to the town hall and shadow someone who works there to see what it's like. We called it student government day.

When we arrived in the morning, we were led into the back of the town hall for a swearing in ceremony. First Kellie was sworn in because she was going to be the clerk for the day and then she swore the rest of us in together. After this each of us left with the people we were shadowing. Hailey, Amanda, and I were all given the town assessors. When we first got into their office they began by telling us what exactly it is an assessor does. An assessor's job is to assess real estate and personal property taxes. This means that they go to all the houses and decide how much it is worth based on what's inside it. It also means they make the decision on how much someone should be paying for taxes.

After all of this was explained they let us on the computer and had us look up the information on our houses. This was really cool because I learned that my house is worth \$409,100. This amount is determined by fair cash value or the amount a willing buyer would pay a willing seller on the open market. It also gave me information like how many bathrooms I have, what my house was made out of, that I have a pool and fireplace, and what kind of roof I have. I also got a sketch of what the floor plan of my house looks like. I was also given an image of my home.

Then we learned how to find our houses in the different sections of the map of Acushnet. I found my house in section 11 lot 16E. Once I found my house, I was given a copy of it so I could bring it home to show my parents. This was pretty cool because I could see exactly where our land was and where our neighbors' land began.

While we were there we learned the importance of the assessors. If we didn't have assessors then we wouldn't have teachers. This is because out of the taxes that everyone has to pay some of it goes toward the salary of teachers. Assessors also calculate the amount of new growth in Acushnet each year. I have learned that assessors have an important role in our town government from my trip to the town hall on student government day.