

## **Vice President Biden Visits Radford**

### *Second in command visits River City Grill*

RADFORD -- Small towns and cities are defined by not being well known outside of their immediate areas. During the election season, however, the small town charm is almost irresistible to politicians.

Vice President Joe Biden visited Radford last Wednesday. His stopover in Radford was part of a larger trip to southwest Virginia to bolster support for reelection. The trip also included Danville, Wytheville, and Blacksburg.

The vice president made River City Grill his campaign stop in Radford. While there he drank a cup of joe and mingled with patrons of the restaurant.

“It was definitely an experience unlike anything else,” David Hinckley, a server at River City Grill, said.

“We had a full restaurant. He came in and did the political thing and got a cup of coffee.”

The meeting was more than unexpected for River City Grill. Staffers for the vice president came in and asked to speak to the restaurant’s manager and wondered if he mind if Mr. Biden came in.

No, come on in,” was the response.

Within twenty minutes the vice president arrived. He came in tow of staffers and secret service agents and stayed for a little more than 45 minutes.

“People were getting wanded down outside,” Hinckley said of the secret service. “It was ridiculous.”

“Everyone was on their A-game,” Hinckley said of the restaurant staff.

Hinckley realized another Radford business, Crumb & Get It Cookie Company, rejected the vice president’s visit to their location, but refused to comment on the business’s decision. He did state that “everyone is welcome” to the River City Grill.

He also realizes how vital the area is to both the Obama and Romney campaign's bid for president.

"It's huge," he said.

The campaign ad numbers dwarf in comparison to the 2008 election. According to both MSNBC and The Roanoke Times, the Roanoke-Lynchburg media market ranked first in the country late July for campaign ad spending and consistently ranks in the top ten. Hefty numbers for the 66<sup>th</sup>-largest TV market in the country. A total of \$6.5 million has already been spent in the market several months before the election. Only \$5.6 million was spent total for the 2008 election.

Whether numbers have jumped at River City Grill due to Biden's visit remains to be seen, according to Hinckley.

"These ladies wanted to come and eat where Biden ate," Hinckley pointed to a couple of patrons, "but I believe the only reason business has increased is because school is returning."