

HERALD-CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

MIKE DELAPP

By Laura Gwinn: Herald-Citizen Staff

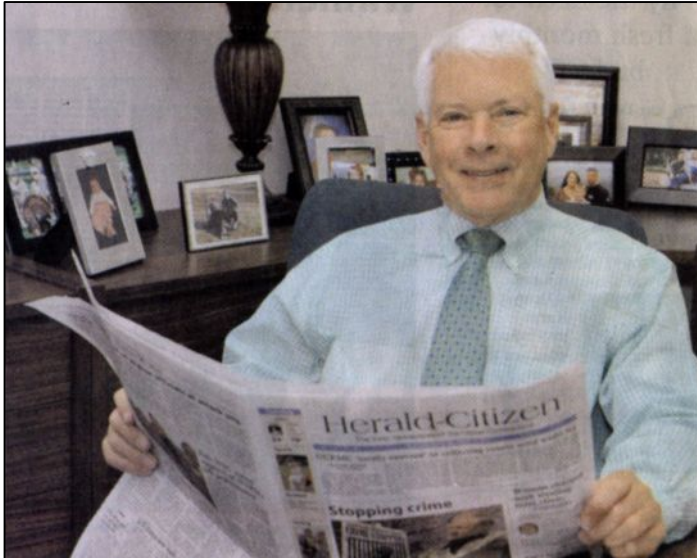
‘Over the next several months, the Herald-Citizen will be featuring each of our full-time employees, sharing with our readers their position at the paper, workload and the impact each employee has with the production of the h-c. This series will begin with Herald-Citizen Publisher Mike DeLapp.

DeLapp has long history with newspaper industry:

It all began with a paper route at the age of 10 as a young boy trying to earn spending money. *Herald-Citizen* Publisher, Mike DeLapp, has spent his entire career working in various departments of five different newspapers working his way to publisher status in 1986.

When he was 16 years old he applied for a worker’s permit and began working in the mailroom and pressroom of the *Reidsville Review* where he had been delivering newspapers for the past six years. After

graduating from high school, DeLapp began working in the retail advertising department of the newspaper.



(Pictured: Herald-Citizen Publisher Mike DeLapp reads over the day’s current events in his office on Neal Street).

In 1971, he received an Applied Science Degree in business administration and began a 40-plus year career in the newspaper industry.

“I sold retail advertising for *The Review* until 1979 when I became retail advertising manager of the paper. I held this position until 1985 when I became publisher of the *Madison Messenger*, a small weekly located in

North Carolina.”

A year later, in 1986, DeLapp became the publisher of the *Reidsville Review* and held that position until 1999 when he moved to Scottsboro, AL, and became publisher of the *Scottsboro Daily Sentinel*.

“I was publisher of the *Daily Sentinel* until 2005 when I decided to move back to North Carolina. I didn’t work for eight months trying to decide whether to retire, change professions or get back into the newspaper business.” DeLapp said.

In 2006, DeLapp decided to stay in the newspaper industry and accepted the publisher’s position at the *Franklin County News* in Rocky Mount, VA. He was in VA when he was contacted by the owner of the *Herald-Citizen* about possibly becoming the publisher of the newspaper.

“I had known the owner of the *Herald-Citizen* for a number of years as I had worked in his aunt’s newspaper organization for more than 30 years.”

After a three-hour interview the two agreed on all the details of the hiring arrangement and three weeks later DeLapp assumed the publisher’s role at the *Herald-Citizen*.

“It has been five years since I moved to Cookeville and I must say it has been a wonderful experience. It is a great place to live with many amenities but it still has that small town feel,” DeLapp said.

Having been in the business for so many years, DeLapp has seen many changes in how newspapers are produced. According to DeLapp, “We are so dependent on computers in every aspect of newspaper production; if our system goes down we are dead in the water. The changes in technology over the past few years have just been amazing and it takes a constant effort to keep pace with the changes.”

When asked about his newspaper career DeLapp said, “The best part is it is ever-changing. When I walk into the office in the morning I never know what the day holds. It could be a weather event like we recently had, a terrible homicide or the governor dropping by our office. It never gets boring and I can’t imagine doing anything else. I used to laugh and tell people when I got cut I would bleed black because newspaper are in my blood.”

Outside the newspaper DeLapp enjoys playing golf, turkey hunting, doing home improvement projects and being with his children and grandchildren in North Carolina.

In closing DeLapp said, “I think the *Herald-Citizen* is a terrific bargain. For about 30 cents per day you can get news, sports and advertising about our community as well as state, national and international news delivered to your door.”

*Read more about the History of Putnam Co., TN and surrounding areas at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>