



Alice Gordon

Alice Marie Gordon was born on July 1, 1937 in Columbus, Ohio, and grew up there. She received a B.Sc. in Psychology from The Ohio State University and a Ph.D. in Psychology from Stanford University. She and her husband, Alan Biermann, have been married over forty years, and they have two grown children and two grandchildren. Alice became a Chapel Hill resident in 1972 when she accepted a position at the University of North

Carolina. She worked as a research psychologist at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, specializing in the study of children's language development. In the 1980s, Alice served as Chair of the Orange County Planning Board and President of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools PTA Council. She was elected to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) of Orange County in 1990. Alice has served as Board Chair and Vice Chair, and is now in her sixth consecutive term as a Commissioner. In 2006, Leadership Triangle honored Alice with the Goodmon Award for Exemplary Regional Leadership by an Elected Official for her significant contributions in the areas of environmental protection and regional transportation. The award citation stated that she had "proactively addressed regional growth while enhancing the quality of life that defines the Triangle."

Alice's contributions to Chapel Hill and Carrboro have focused on the areas of public education, environmental protection, and regional transportation. She has been a dedicated champion of excellent public schools and played an important role in crafting the county's Schools Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance to plan ahead for school growth. Since new schools are built when needed, this ordinance helps prevent school overcrowding.

- Throughout her years of civic involvement, Alice Gordon has made many significant contributions to the community. She is particularly proud of the leadership she provided for two national award-winning initiatives that will have long-lasting effects on Chapel Hill and Carrboro. One initiative led to the establishment of the county's nationally recognized "Lands Legacy Program," the first comprehensive county land acquisition program in North Carolina. In the spring of 1998, Alice proposed the creation of that program, as well as a new county department to focus on environmental protection. Both were later implemented by the BOCC. As a result, environmental protection became a separate function of county government, allowing the county to more effectively protect its water resources, air quality, and other natural resources. In 2007, the Lands Legacy Program won the Excellence in County Planning Award from the National Association of County Planners. Through the Lands Legacy Program, the county has protected about 3000 acres of the county's most important natural and cultural resources including parkland, farmland, and critical natural areas. Notable acquisitions in and near the Chapel Hill and Carrboro area were the Adams Preserve and land for future parks and preserves, including Twin Creeks Park, Blackwood Farm, Millhouse Road Park, and New Hope Preserve.

The second initiative saw the production of the first joint transportation plan for the western and eastern parts of the Triangle region, which had previously been planned separately. Alice chaired the policy board of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO), the regional organization responsible for transportation planning in the western part of the Triangle. In 2007 and 2008, while serving as Chair, she led the collaborative effort between the DCHC MPO and the Capital Area MPO to create a joint 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. As a result, Chapel Hill and Carrboro are part of an area with a unified plan to guide future transportation investments. In 2009, the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations honored these two MPOs with the National Award for Outstanding Achievement in Metropolitan Transportation Planning for their exemplary collaborative planning effort. As a current member of the DCHC MPO, Alice continues to promote better public transit and to foster efforts for improving air quality. She has also served as Chair of the Board of Trustees of Triangle Transit, the regional public transit agency, and spearheaded the creation of that agency's bus route connecting Chapel Hill and Hillsborough.

- Alice notes that the community has grown tremendously since she has lived here. She believes that the restaurants and other urban amenities have become better, while the transportation and environmental challenges have increased as the area has attracted more people.
- Her fondest memories of Chapel Hill and Carrboro include glorious mornings and golden afternoons

outdoors in this beautiful community with her husband, children and grandchildren.

- She sees a bright future for Chapel Hill and Carrboro, as long as residents stay true to their core values, which include supporting excellent public education, respecting the natural environment, and welcoming all who come to live in the community.