

# Clayton Local Development Corporation

## Annual Report 2024

### **CLDC Mission Statement:**

*The Clayton Local Development Corporation seeks to promote, provide and enhance employment opportunities and business development in the Town and Village of Clayton; and act in the public interest to improve the area's quality of life, to lessen the burdens of government, and to improve the economic welfare and prosperity of all residents.*

### **Note from the Chairman**

*In 2024, the CLDC continued to support our community stakeholders, Village, and Town. The CLDC feels it completed five out of seven goals. The CLDC did not have any viable applications to appropriate any NYS, Federal, or regional funding opportunities. It also had no viable requests from potential developers or assistance for any developments within our community.*

*The CLDC did continue to use the Strategic Plan as a guide with measurable action items. The areas we utilized were to expand regionalization efforts and financial stability for the Corporation.*

*The CLDC did a housing study in 2024 so we could gather data to support our belief that essential housing is needed within our community. This led us in 2024 to form an Essential Housing Committee with representatives from the community, Town, Village, and the CLDC. Our goal will be to formulate and execute a plan that will benefit our businesses, families, school, and our whole community.*

*James S. Ganter*  
*Chairman*

# CLDC Board Members 2024

## **Officers**

### **Chairman**

Jamie Ganter, Retired Director of Media Operations Knowlton Technologies LCC

### **Vice-Chairman**

Bobby Cantwell, Jefferson County Legislature, District #1

### **Treasurer**

John Cooper, Territory Sales Manager, Reeb

### **Secretary**

Christine Powers, retired VP/Commercial Loan Officer, Watertown Savings Bank

### **Assistant Secretary**

Christopher Bogenschutz, President of the Clayton Chamber of Commerce, Ex-Officio Member

## **Ex-Officio Members**

Doug Rogers, Chairman of the Clayton Joint Planning Board, Ex-Officio Member

Nancy Hyde Village of Clayton Mayor

Michael Bashaw, Superintendent of Schools, Thousand Islands School District

Tim Doney, Town of Clayton Supervisor

## **Community Members**

Jack Stopper, owner Weather Stopper

Norma Zimmer, former Mayor

Mike Hazlewood, owner Hazlewood Mechanicals & Wood Boat Brewery

Tim Lalonde, Financial Consultant & former CFO of Carrols Restaurant Group, Inc.

## **Executive Director**

Kristi Dippel

## Highlights for 2024

### **Housing**

In 2024, the Clayton Local Development Corporation received a housing study that was started in 2023. The housing study validated some of our assumptions about housing within our community. The increase in rentals and short-term rentals was apparent. The population data and incomes were beneficial. However, the report was confusing and lacked clear details on many topics we were trying to clarify. This report did support the need for Essential housing within our community. This was the catalyst for the CLDC to start an Essential Housing Committee. This includes CLDC members, and community members.

### **Regionalization**

One of the CLDC's Strategic Goals is to expand our efforts within our region. In 2024, we meet with our neighboring community, Cape Vincent, to discuss their development of a Local Development Corporation. We plan on continuing communication and potential assist in some grant writing in 2025. The CLDC also met with the Village of Henderson to assist them in applying for an LWRP grant. We completed this task and allowed us to support another one of our goals to ensure the future sustainability of the CLDC.

### **LWRP**

The CLDC partnered with the Village of Clayton and applied and received a grant to update the Joint LWRP in 2024. A committee has been formed, and the process started in 2025.

### **Strategic Planning**

The Strategic Plan is a continuous guiding document for the CLDC. We are successfully implementing action items with regionalization and generating revenue to ensure future sustainability of the CLDC. The organization's overall plan remains the same, which is to promote, provide, and enhance employment opportunities and business development in the Town and Village of Clayton. Also, to act in the public interest to improve the area's quality of life, to lessen the burdens of government, and to improve the economic welfare and prosperity of all residents.

## CLDC Goals for 2025

1. Work with the Village of Clayton, the Town of Clayton, local businesses and organizations to submit viable applications to appropriate NYS, federal and regional funding opportunities and programs that will benefit the community.
2. Continuing to work with local agencies and municipalities to expand and connect the local trail and walkway system, to include the Sissy Danforth Trail and Clayton Riverwalk.
3. Explore additional revenue generating activities to ensure the future sustainability of the CLDC.
4. Continue to work toward generating measurable action items in the updated Strategic Plan, including regionalization.
5. Work with the Town and Village of Clayton, as well as the Joint Planning board towards revising and updating the 2013 Joint Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan.
6. Continue to explore solutions to local housing issues, including moving forward with the Essential Housing Committee to explore potential opportunities to bring affordable housing to the community.
7. Work with potential developers for possible development projects in the community
8. Network with local businesses at events such as Business with a Twist.