

...improving your village since 1878.

*The village of Katonah was “ragged and unsightly and the area [near the railroad] station was not only ugly and smelly but might easily be dangerous to the health of the community. The Katonah Village Improvement Society... at once began its work. The streets and sidewalks were cleaned and repaired... flowers and shrubbery appeared at corners and in vacant spaces, replacing stones and rubbish. Not only the outward appearance of the village improved enormously, but also its sanitary conditions. But the most important work of the Society... was the growth and development of the Community Spirit.”*

Letter from 1928 excerpted from  
“Katonah: The History of a New York Village and  
its People” by Frances Duncombe.



PO Box 263 Katonah, NY 10536

KVIS is an all-volunteer community organization. The Board meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Katonah Village Library the fourth Monday of every month, with no meetings in December, July or August. Please come to our meetings—they're open to the public and we welcome your ideas and suggestions for making Katonah even more vibrant! For more information, visit:

[www.kvis.us](http://www.kvis.us)

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We've been in Katonah longer than you...

1878

## KVIS History

The Katonah Village Improvement Society (KVIS) is one of the oldest civic organizations in the country. Founded in 1878 to improve the conditions in Katonah, KVIS was responsible for planting 280 trees in barren “New Katonah,” which was established in 1897 when Old Katonah was threatened with submersion by the building of a dam and whose residents chose instead to preserve the village’s character and spirit by literally moving its families and homes to the village’s present-day site. KVIS not only improved the sanitary conditions in Katonah, but also enhanced the cultural landscape of the village by founding the Katonah Village Library, from which the Katonah Art Museum later evolved.

More than four generations since its inception, KVIS continues to be a vibrant, active organization whose activities strengthen Katonah’s unusually strong civic spirit. KVIS is dedicated to preserving the best from the past while improving the quality of village life in the present and for the future.

## Civic/Educational

- KVIS keeps its finger on the pulse of town activities, with representatives attending Town Board meetings and Community Organizations Committee meetings, and serving as active members on the Boards of the Katonah Chamber of Commerce and the Community Center.
- KVIS sponsors an annual Katonah Village Forum where residents meet town officials and ask questions in an informal setting.
- KVIS preserves Katonah’s history by printing and distributing Frances R. Duncombe’s book “Katonah, The History of a New York Village.”
- KVIS awards an annual college scholarship to a Katonah high school senior and an annual scholarship to KES fourth graders to attend the John Jay Homestead summer history camp.
- KVIS supports local civic and cultural institutions such as the Katonah Village Library, the Community Center, Family University and others.

## Cultural

- KVIS sponsors a free, annual outdoor film in downtown Katonah and professionally curates an on-going, monthly film series at the library
- KVIS collaborates with other Katonah cultural institutions, such as the Katonah Museum of Art to sponsor public art, the John Jay Homestead for scholarship/education and the Katonah Village Library to underwrite its poetry series.

## Beautification

- KVIS designed and custom built the Victorian-style bulletin board at the train station, and is responsible for its on-going upkeep.
- KVIS sponsors the annual Clean Up Day where nearly 100 bags of garbage are collected by kids and families in a fun, festive village spring cleaning.
- KVIS collaborated with the Town to install the attractive trash and recycling receptacles in the downtown area.
- KVIS donates plantings to public areas downtown.



## We Need Your Help!

We’re working to offer even more village improvements and civic/cultural activities. KVIS is planning to launch a number of new, long-term initiatives, including:

- preserving and digitizing the priceless 130-year old KVIS archives for public dissemination
- establishing a junior KVIS to involve younger residents in creating and helping to organize community events and activities
- creating more programs for teenagers, a vastly underserved segment of Katonah

**...and many more improvements!**

# Yes!

I want to help support KVIS with a contribution of:

——\$35

——\$50

——\$100

——other

Please make your check payable to KVIS and send your tax-deductible contribution to:

**KVIS  
Box 263  
Katonah, NY 10536**

Contributors of \$100 or more will receive a complimentary copy of Francis Duncombe’s Katonah History book.

Name

Street

Email address

City

State

Zip

I'd like to receive the bi-monthly KVIS e-newsletter

For more information about KVIS, please visit our website at [kvis.us](http://kvis.us) and feel free to contact us at [info@kvis.us](mailto:info@kvis.us) or 914-282-1003