

# BURLINGTON'S UNSOLVED TRAGEDY



Family still wants answers  
in New Year's slaying that changed  
community forever 50 years ago

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**B**URLINGTON — Fifty years ago today, Jim Kubath was a young police officer working on New Year's Day. Driving around town in the wee hours, he stopped to check on a late-night gas station.

What he found at the Clark station on Milwaukee Avenue would lead Kubath to a murder mystery that devastated a family and rattled the Burlington community — and remains unsolved to this day.

David Schwochert, the teenage gas station attendant who was working that night in 1973, was missing. A few hours later, the teenager turned up dead in a field just outside town.

Schwochert, 16, a junior at Burlington High School, had been shot in the head twice.

Police theorized that someone intending to rob the gas station decided to take the teenager with them. Then, they killed him in a remote area near some woods about three miles away.

Investigators uncovered clues, and they developed theories about potential suspects. But no one has ever been charged in the killing.

Kubath, now 80 years old and retired, still thinks about the murder that sent a chill through Burlington on Jan. 1, 1973. He wonders

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David Schwochert, whose family was active at St. Charles Catholic Church in Burlington, is shown in 1964 on the occasion of his first communion.



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David Schwochert, second from right, is dressed in his scout uniform for a Memorial Day parade in 1967, joined by his fellow scout siblings, from left, sister Debbie, brother Doug and sister Cindy.