



Everything New Orleans

# The Times-Picayune

## Clues in Gentilly killing sought Plumber shot, house set afire 2 years ago

Thursday, June 07, 2007

By Brendan McCarthy  
Staff writer

Tearful family members and friends pleaded Wednesday for the public's help in solving the nearly two-year-old killing of a well-known Gentilly plumber.

Standing in front of Marcel Trudeau's flood- and fire-wrecked house, the group, including New Orleans police and Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman, announced that the reward for providing information in the case has been upped to \$12,000.

The family had raised the award from the standard \$2,500 to \$11,000 shortly after the killing in 2005.

"We ask for your help," said Trudeau's twin brother, Marvin. "This was not a drug-related or retaliatory crime, which we see all too often in New Orleans. This was a murder."

Crimestoppers has not received a tip in a long time, said Darlene Cusanza, director of Crimestoppers.

Trudeau, 45, the amiable owner of Trudeau's Plumbing, was found by firefighters in his kitchen on Aug. 16, 2005 about 4 a.m.

Neighbors made emergency calls after spotting a small fire coming from the house in the 5600 block of St. Roch Avenue. Firefighters recovered Trudeau's body, and it was later determined he had been shot at least once prior to the fire. Police said they think the fire was set to mask the killing.

---

Witnesses reported seeing a brown van with two men in it leave the area. Days after the killing, the stolen Chevy Astro van was recovered in the neighborhood where it was stolen, police said.

Police consider those two men suspects and are also seeking a heavy-set man who was captured by private surveillance cameras in the area around the time of the crime. Gusman, a neighbor and friend of Trudeau's at the time, said a large digital-keypad safe, which held money and firearms, was stolen from Trudeau's house.

Citizens with information are asked to call Crimestoppers at 822-1111 or toll-free 1 (877) 903-7867. Callers do not have to give their names or testify.

.....

Brendan McCarthy can be reached at [bmccarthy@timespicayune.com](mailto:bmccarthy@timespicayune.com) or (504) 826-3301.