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Plea deal reached in business break-ins

By John Kovach

The man arrested for breaking into the New Canaan Library and several other downtown commercial establishments last winter is free, having reached a plea bargain.

Brian Clinton Carter, 50, of Locust Avenue, pleaded guilty earlier this month to one count of first-degree larceny, three counts of third-degree burglary and one count of operating a motor vehicle while under suspension. He was sentenced to seven years in prison, suspended, and five years of probation.

"The charges brought against him represent an anomalous event in an otherwise law-abiding and productive life," defense attorney John Thygerson of DePanfilis and Vallerie said Friday.

Mr. Carter was originally charged March 10, with first-degree larceny by possession because items reported stolen were found in a garage and storage facility he rented.

He had been in the Bridgeport Correctional Center since his arrest.

On May 3 at Norwalk Superior Court, police served Mr. Carter with three warrants charging him with third-degree burglary for break-ins at a Cherry Street dental office on January 5, and at the New Canaan Library on February 26 and March 9.

Mr. Carter agreed to the plea bargain and was freed from jail May 4. His five years of probation have commenced.

Misdemeanor charges including sixth-degree larceny and criminal mischief were nolle, meaning that they will be erased from his record 13 months and one day from his sentencing, provided he faces no additional criminal charges.

"The crimes for which he had been charged do not necessarily reflect who he is as a person," Mr. Thygerson said. "There is a lot of good in Brian Carter, as evidenced by the willingness with which he provided one of his two kidneys to a friend who was in desperate need of it. He literally saved someone's life with this selfless donation."

On April 22, 2004, Mr. Carter was profiled in the *Advertiser* when he donated one of his kidneys to a longtime friend who was suffering from end-stage renal failure. Mr. Carter at that time advocated education about transplants, and was featured in New York City media.