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Ocean Vicinage Drug Court to Hold Graduation Ceremony

Ocean Vicinage will hold its drug court graduation ceremony on Tuesday, May 19 at 11 a.m. in the Mancini Room of the Ocean County Library, 101 Washington St., Toms River. Judge Joseph L. Foster will preside over the event. Eighteen candidates are eligible to graduate from the program.

Drug court is a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure that addresses nonviolent drug-related cases. Drug courts are unique in the criminal justice environment because they build a close, collaborative relationship between criminal justice and drug treatment professionals.

Drug court targets offenders who, were it not for their substance abuse, might never have been involved with the court system. Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases during five years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing, and a tightly structured regimen of treatment and recovery services. This level of supervision permits the program to support the recovery process, but also allows supervisors to react swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply.

The graduates have met all the requirements of the program and have successfully completed their terms of probation supervision.

The Ocean Vicinage Drug Court program serves approximately 440 participants. A total of 284 participants have graduated from the program since its inception in 2002.

For more event information, call Carole Haines, drug court coordinator, at 732-929-2125.

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