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Monmouth Vicinage to Celebrate National Drug Court Month

In recognition of National Drug Court Month, the Monmouth Vicinage will conduct its 28th drug court graduation ceremony, hold a roundtable discussion and host an artwork display at the courthouse.

The drug court graduation ceremony will be held on Monday, May 6 at 9:30 a.m. at the Monmouth County Library, 125 Symmes Dr., Manalapan. Forty-seven drug court participants will be recognized for advancing through the four phases of drug court and satisfying all of the significant requirements of the drug court program.

During the week of May 13, original artwork created by Monmouth Vicinage drug court participants will be displayed throughout the courthouse. These works will give insight into the personal journeys of drug court participants and their efforts to remain clean and sober.

"We continue to recognize the progress of our drug court graduates and congratulate them on their achievements," said Assignment Judge Lisa P. Thornton.

On Wednesday, May 15, three drug court graduates will discuss their experiences in the program and their roads to recovery in a roundtable session, "Inside the Drug Court," from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in courtroom 334 east. This program is open to the public.

"It is extraordinary how many of our graduates have reunited with loved ones, furthered their education, obtained promotions in employment, regained driving privileges, and more," said Superior Court Judge Honora O'Brien Kilgallen, who presides over the vicinage's drug court program. "The graduates have truly realized the rewards that come with recovery and we wish them continued success in their recovery efforts."

The vicinage's drug court program, which started more than 15 years ago, has 561 graduates and 372 participants.

For more information on National Drug Court Month, the drug court program or these vicinage events, contact vicinage Drug Court Coordinator Melissa Garrett at 732-677-4551. Media representatives interested in covering the program should contact Janet Slocum at 732-677-4208.

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