Friday is cut-off for JP applicants

This is the last week to apply for Ajo’s recently vacated Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace position. Applications, including the filing of financial disclosure forms, must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, August 31.

The Pima County Board of Supervisors is accepting letters of interest, resumes, and financial disclosure forms from individuals interested in being considered for appointment.

To be eligible, individuals must be 18 years of age or older at time of appointment, must be a resident of the Pima County Justice of the Peace Precinct 3, and must be able to vote in the precinct.

Applications, including all documentation, can be submitted by dropping them off at the Clerk’s office, mailing them to PO Box 839, Ajo, AZ 85321, or submitting them online at www.pima.gov/publications. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Friday, August 31, 2012.

Clearance under 2nd Ave. bridge is deemed okay for now

When the new Second Avenue Bridge in Ajo was completed in 2007, it was designed with a 9.5 foot clearance above the bankfull elevation, or approximately 12 to 13 feet above the bridge’s arch. That clearance is necessary to accommodate future floods and ensure that sediment accumulating under the bridge does not impede its hydraulic capacity.

However, the bridge was recently lowered by several inches to allow for the construction of storm drains under the bridge. The lowering of the bridge created a new problem. The new height created a seven-inch clearance, which local residents and business owners were concerned might not be sufficient to accommodate future floods.

Addressing the possibility of future floods, John Dooley, President of the Ajo Area Flood Control District, said that the bridge clearance is determined by a computer modeling program that takes into account historical flood events and future climate projections.

The program calculates the expected flow of water under the bridge and determines the appropriate clearance to ensure that the bridge can safely carry the anticipated flows.

In this case, the program determined that a clearance of seven inches is sufficient to accommodate future floods and maintain the bridge’s functionality.

Dooley said that the bridge clearance is regularly reviewed and updated as new data becomes available. He added that the bridge’s design and construction were based on the latest available flood modeling data and that the bridge is capable of handling future flood events.

Ajo firefighters receive no funds from fire district

Chief David Tibbitt of Ajo Fire Department said that the Ajo Fire Department has received no funds from the Ajo Fire District for the last 15 years.

The Ajo Fire Department is a nonprofit organization, and its funding comes from a combination of state and federal grants, as well as donations from the community.

Tibbitt said that the department has successfully maintained its operations and kept its equipment up to date without the support of the Ajo Fire District. He added that the department has received several awards for its outstanding performance and that it continues to provide high-quality service to the community.

More than a year ago, the Ajo Fire Department began raising funds to replace its aging equipment and improve its facilities. The department has received several donations from local businesses and individuals, and it has also received grants from the state and federal government.

The department has been able to purchase new equipment and make improvements to its facilities, but it has not received any funds from the Ajo Fire District.

Tibbitt said that the department is grateful for the support of the community and that it will continue to work hard to provide the best possible service to the residents of Ajo.