

SEPTEMBER 2025

LAKE IN THE HILLS AIRPORT 3CK NEWSLETTER



YOUR QUICK GUIDE TO
TO ALL THINGS 3CK

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

AIRPORT MANAGER

PICTURES

AWOS

FREQUENCY



Lou Zaragoza

Airport Manager (815) 479-7960

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From the Manager's Desk

LOU ZARAGOZA



Dear Friends of Lake in the Hills Airport,

I want to begin this newsletter by updating you on two important topics that are top-of-mind for many of you: our Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) project and the congestion on our current radio frequency.

As you will read in the following pages, the AWOS project has unfortunately been delayed due to the State's letting and award process. While the system is coming, it will not arrive as quickly as we had hoped. Because of this, my immediate priority is addressing the radio frequency congestion that continues to be raised by our engineering firm, local flight instructors, and concerned community members.

Both of these issues are tied to the safety, efficiency, and experience of flying at Lake in the Hills Airport. I hope this newsletter gives you clear insight into the process and the steps we're taking to move forward.

Don't forget - our FAA weather cameras are online! Take a look.... <https://weathercams.faa.gov/>

3CK in Pictures

August truly felt like the month of the helicopter, as our ramp welcomed a steady stream of rotorcraft touching down throughout the month



The AWOS Project

The long-anticipated AWOS installation at Lake in the Hills Airport remains a high priority for our facility. However, the project is currently under the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) letting process, which means that the State—not the Village—handles advertising, bid openings, and contract awards.

CMT, our engineering firm, has confirmed that the State’s advertisement period lasts six weeks, with construction not beginning until the award process is complete. Historically, awards have been taking between four and eight months. At the earliest, this means we would not see construction until May 1, 2026.

Adding to the delay, the assignment of a dedicated frequency for the AWOS system must be coordinated with the FAA and FCC as part of the project scope. While this is being handled at the federal level, it further stretches out the timeline.

I recognize the frustration many of you share. Pilots and tenants have noted, airports in far less busy regions already have AWOS units in place. Our location—just outside of O’Hare’s airspace—sees far more traffic and would benefit greatly from accurate, real-time weather reporting. Until this project is awarded and scheduled, we are at the mercy of the State’s process.

Changing Frequencies

Because the AWOS project will not be completed soon, my top operational priority is addressing our radio frequency congestion. Currently, we share 120.05 MHz with at least seven other area airports. This creates significant congestion, particularly as pilots are trying to call traffic, obtain weather, and coordinate within a very busy suburban environment.

Concerns have been raised by multiple stakeholders:

- CMT has pointed out that the Airport may independently apply for a frequency change by submitting forms to the FCC, without waiting for the AWOS project.
- Feedback received from a Flight Instructor emphasized that pilots are already struggling with the cluttered frequency, especially when weather information and traffic calls overlap. Possible alternatives are 123.075, 122.975, and 122.725, with 123.075 being his preference.
- Based and visiting pilots have also voiced repeated concern. One in particular has positively lobbied for a change for some time now, noting that “120.05 is way too busy” and suggesting 123.07 as a much cleaner alternative.

The consensus is clear: congestion is both a safety issue and an unnecessary complication for pilots. Changing our frequency would provide immediate relief and improve communications, regardless of the AWOS timeline.

I will be moving forward with the necessary paperwork to pursue a CTAF frequency change through the FCC, and I will keep all stakeholders updated as this progresses.



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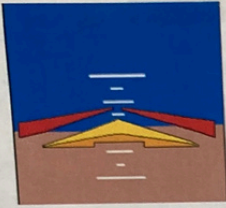
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Finefield Aviation

Finefield Aviation Inc. is Hiring!

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