

WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORP  
Form 425  
October 14, 2014

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 8-K  
Current Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of  
The Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): October 13, 2014  
WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORPORATION  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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Illinois (State or other jurisdiction of Incorporation)	001-35077 (Commission File Number)	36-3873352 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
9700 West Higgins Road Rosemont, Illinois (Address of principal executive offices)		60018 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (847) 939-9000

(Former name or former address, if changed since last year)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 8.01. Other Events.

On October 14, 2014, Wintrust Financial Corporation, an Illinois corporation (“Wintrust”), issued a press release announcing the execution of an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of October 13, 2014 (the “Merger Agreement”), by and among Wintrust, Wintrust Merger Co., a Wisconsin corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of Wintrust, and Delavan Bancshares, Inc., a Wisconsin corporation (“Delavan”), providing for the acquisition of Delavan by Wintrust. Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, shareholders of Delavan will receive consideration consisting of cash and shares of Wintrust common stock. Delavan is the parent company of Community Bank CBD, a Wisconsin state bank which operates four banking locations in southeastern Wisconsin. The closing of the transaction is conditioned upon the receipt of applicable regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions. The transaction is expected to close early in the first quarter of 2015 and is not expected to have a material effect on Wintrust’s 2015 earnings per share.

A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Forward-Looking Information

This Current Report on Form 8-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws relating to the proposed acquisition of Delavan and integration of Delavan with Wintrust, the combination of their businesses and projected revenue, as well as profitability and earnings outlook. Investors are cautioned that such statements are predictions and actual events or results may differ materially. Wintrust’s expected financial results or other plans are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. For a discussion of such risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements, see “Risk Factors” and the forward-looking statement disclosure contained in Wintrust’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the most recently ended fiscal year and in Wintrust’s subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date made and Wintrust undertakes no duty to update the information.

Important Additional Information

This communication does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities. This communication is being made in respect of a proposed transaction involving Wintrust and Delavan. In connection with the proposed transaction, Wintrust intends to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) a registration statement on Form S-4 to register the shares of Wintrust common stock issuable in the transaction. Before making any investment decision regarding the transaction, stockholders of Delavan are urged to read all filings made by Wintrust in connection with the transaction, including the registration statement on Form S-4, carefully and in their entirety because they will contain important information. Investors may obtain copies of all documents filed with the SEC regarding this transaction, free of charge, at the SEC’s website ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)) and by accessing Wintrust’s website ([www.wintrust.com](http://www.wintrust.com)) under the heading “Investor Relations” and then under the link “Documents.”

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d)	Exhibits.
Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press Release dated October 14, 2014.

Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

WINTRUST FINANCIAL  
CORPORATION

(Registrant)

By: /s/ Lisa J. Pattis

Lisa J. Pattis

Executive Vice President, General  
Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Date: October 14, 2014

EXHIBIT INDEX

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