

WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORP

Form 425

December 08, 2005

**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): December 8, 2005**

**WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

<b>Illinois</b> (State or other jurisdiction of Incorporation)	<b>0-21923</b> (Commission File Number)	<b>36-3873352</b> (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
<b>727 North Bank Lane</b> <b>Lake Forest, Illinois</b> (Address of principal executive offices)		<b>60045</b> (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code **(847) 615-4096**

**Not Applicable**

(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 Event.**

On December 8, 2005, Wintrust Financial Corporation (the Company ) announced its intention to organize a de novo bank in the south suburbs of Chicago. A copy of the press release relating to the Company s announcement of this new bank is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1, and incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit

99.1 Press Release dated December 8, 2005.

**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/ David L. Stoehr  
David L. Stoehr  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: December 8, 2005

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

**Exhibit**

99.1 Press Release dated December 8, 2005.

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