
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, DC 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): January 10, 2023

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Indiana
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

0-11487
(Commission
File Number)

35-1559596
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**202 East Center Street,
Warsaw , Indiana**
(Address of principal executive offices)

46580
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (574) 267-6144

(Former name or former address if changed since last report.)

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))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Trading Symbol(s)</u>	<u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u>
Common Stock, no par value	LKFN	NASDAQ

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (s230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (s240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the Registrant has elected not to use extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers

On January 10, 2023, Michael E. Gavin, Executive Vice President, Chief Credit Officer, formally announced his long-standing plan to retire on January 27, 2023 to the board of directors of Lakeland Financial Corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiary Lake City Bank. Mr. Gavin will be succeeded by Donald J. Robinson-Gay, Senior Vice President, Chief Credit Officer. The news release is attached as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure

On January 17, 2023, the Company and the Bank issued a press release announcing Mr. Gavin's retirement and Mr. Robinson-Gay's appointment. A copy of the press release is furnished herewithin as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

[99.1 Press Release issued by Lakeland Financial Corporation and Lake City Bank on January 17, 2023](#)

SIGNATURES

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.

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION

Dated: January 17, 2023

By: /s/ Lisa M. O'Neill
Lisa M. O'Neill
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

NEWS FROM LAKE CITY BANK
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Contact**

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Lake City Bank Promotes Donald J. Robinson-Gay to Chief Credit Officer

Warsaw, Indiana (January 17, 2023) – Lake City Bank is pleased to announce that it has promoted Senior Vice President Donald J. Robinson-Gay to Senior Vice President, Chief Credit Officer. Robinson-Gay, 45, will join the bank's Management Committee and succeeds Michael E. Gavin, Executive Vice President, Chief Credit Officer, who will retire on January 27, 2023 after a 31-year career with the bank.

"Since Don joined the bank five years ago, he has proven to be a strong leader who has developed a terrific understanding of Lake City Bank's unique credit culture," said David M. Findlay, President and Chief Executive Officer. "We're proud of our deep roots in the credit administration processes and the role they play in our community banking strategy. We are confident that Don will continue our disciplined credit culture moving forward."

Robinson-Gay joined Lake City Bank as Vice President and Regional Credit Officer in 2018 with responsibility for the bank's Fort Wayne and Warsaw markets. In addition to his role as a Regional Credit Officer, he managed the Special Assets team, the Commercial Real Estate Appraisal team and the Field Audit Examination team.

Robinson-Gay started his career in management consulting at Accenture, before moving into various commercial banking and credit roles with M&I Bank and BMO Harris Bank. While at BMO Harris, he held leadership roles in commercial banking and strategy, as well as serving as a commercial banking market executive in Indianapolis. At M&I Bank, after spending several years as a commercial banker, he served as a senior credit administration officer focused on loan workout strategy during the Great Recession. Robinson-Gay has a master of business administration degree from Marquette University and a bachelor's degree from Miami University.

"Our credit team and culture at Lake City Bank are second to none," Robinson-Gay said. "Our team collaborates effectively with our Commercial Banking partners to deliver solutions to our clients and to build relationships that make us truly a community bank."

Gavin has worked in commercial banking and credit over his 31-year career with Lake City Bank and was appointed as the bank's first Chief Credit Officer in 2011. He joined the bank in 1992 as a Vice President in the Commercial Banking business and held roles of increasing responsibility until becoming Chief Credit Officer.

"Mike transformed our credit administration team into one of the highest performing credit organizations in community banking in the country. He played a critical role in developing the credit culture that has made Lake City Bank successful. We are thankful for the legacy Mike leaves with our Credit Administration team," Findlay said.

Lake City Bank, a \$6.3 billion bank headquartered in Warsaw, Indiana, is the sixth largest bank headquartered in the state, and the largest bank 100% invested in Indiana. Lake City Bank operates 52 branch offices in northern and central Indiana, delivering technology-driven solutions in a client-centric

way to individuals and businesses. The bank is the single bank subsidiary of Lakeland Financial Corporation (Nasdaq Global Select/LKFN). For more information visit lakecitybank.com.



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