WINTRUST

NEWS RELEASE

Wintrust Financial Corporation Declares Semi-Annual Dividend

2003-07-24

LAKE FOREST, Ill., July 24 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Wintrust Financial Corporation (the "Wintrust") (Nasdaq: WTFC) today reported that its Board of Directors approved a semi-annual cash dividend of $0.08 per share of outstanding common stock. The dividend is payable on August 19, 2003 to shareholders of record as of August 5, 2003.

Wintrust is a financial holding company whose common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Stock Market(R). Its seven suburban Chicago community bank subsidiaries, each of which was founded as a de novo bank since December 1991, are located in high income retail markets -- Lake Forest Bank & Trust Company, Hinsdale Bank & Trust Company, North Shore Community Bank & Trust Company in Wilmette, Libertyville Bank & Trust Company, Barrington Bank & Trust Company, Crystal Lake Bank & Trust Company and Northbrook Bank & Trust Company. The banks also operate facilities in Lake Bluff, Highland Park, Hoffman Estates, Highwood, Glencoe, Winnetka, Clarendon Hills, Western Springs, Skokie, Wauconda, Cary, McHenry and Riverside, Illinois. Additionally, the Company operates various non-bank subsidiaries. First Insurance Funding Corporation, one of the largest commercial insurance premium finance companies operating in the United States, serves commercial loan customers throughout the country. Tricom, Inc. of Milwaukee provides short-term accounts receivable financing and value-added out-sourced administrative services, such as data processing of payrolls, billing and cash management services, to temporary staffing service clients located throughout the United States. Wayne Hummer Investments, LLC is a broker-dealer providing a full range of private client and brokerage services to clients located primarily in the Midwest. Focused Investments LLC is a broker-dealer that provides a full range of investment solutions to clients through a network of community-based financial institutions throughout the Midwest. Wayne Hummer Asset Management Company provides money management services and advisory services to individual accounts as well as the Wayne Hummer Companies' four proprietary mutual funds. Wayne Hummer Trust Company, a trust subsidiary, allows Wintrust to service customers' trust and investment needs at each banking

location. Wintrust Information Technology Services Company provides information technology support, item capture and statement preparation services to the Wintrust subsidiaries.

Currently, Wintrust operates a total of 32 banking offices and is in the process of constructing several additional branch facilities. All of the Company's banking subsidiaries are locally managed with large local boards of directors. Wintrust Financial Corporation has been one of the fastest growing de novo bank groups in Illinois.

Note: the following notice is included to meet certain legal requirements

Wintrust will be filing a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with its previously announced proposed acquisition of Advantage National Bancorp, Inc. ("Advantage") in a stock merger transaction. Advantage is the parent company of Advantage National Bank that has locations in Elk Grove Village and Roselle, Illinois. The registration statement will include a proxy statement/prospectus that will be sent to the shareholders of Advantage National Bancorp, Inc. seeking their approval of the proposed transaction.

Shareholders of Advantage are advised to read the important information concerning the proposed transaction contained in the proxy statement/prospectus and other documents filed by Wintrust with the Securities and Exchange Commission when they become available. When filed, these documents can be obtained free of charge from the web site maintained by the Securities and Exchange Commission at **http://www.sec.gov** or upon written request to Wintrust Financial Corporation, Attn: Investor Relations, 727 North Bank Lane, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045 or by calling (847) 615-4096, or upon written request to Advantage National Bancorp, Inc., Attn: President, 75 East Turner Avenue, Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007 or by calling (847) 364-0100.

SOURCE Wintrust Financial Corporation
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/Web site: http://www.wintrust.com /
(WTFC)

CO: Wintrust Financial Corporation
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