

FIRST MIDWEST BANCORP INC

Form 8-K

December 14, 2015

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 11, 2015

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	0-10967	36-3161078
(State or other jurisdiction of Incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)

One Pierce Place, Suite 1500, Itasca, Illinois	60143
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

(630) 875-7450
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A
(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))

Item 8.01 Other Events

On December 11, 2015, First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. ("First Midwest" or the "Company") issued a press release announcing that it completed its previously announced acquisition of Peoples Bancorp, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiary, The Peoples' Bank of Arlington Heights ("Peoples Bank"), in accordance with an agreement and plan of merger entered into on September 21, 2015. Peoples Bank has been merged into the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, First Midwest Bank. The press release, dated December 11, 2015, is attached to this report as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference.

Forward-Looking Statements

This Current Report on Form 8-K may contain certain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. In some cases, forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as "may," "might," "will," "would," "should," "could," "expect," "plan," "intend," "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "predict," "probable," "potential," "possible," "target," "continue," "look forward," or "assume" and words of similar import. Forward-looking statements are not historical facts or guarantees of future performance but instead express only management's beliefs regarding future results or events, many of which, by their nature, are inherently uncertain and outside of management's control. It is possible that actual results and events may differ, possibly materially, from the anticipated results or events indicated in these forward-looking statements. These statements are made only as of the date of this report, and First Midwest undertakes no obligation to update any of these statements to reflect new information or any events or conditions after the date hereof.

Forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions, including, but not limited to: the expected synergies, cost savings and other financial or other benefits of the proposed transaction between First Midwest and NI Bancshares Corporation ("NI Bancshares") might not be realized within the expected timeframes or might be less than projected; the requisite stockholder and regulatory approvals for the proposed transaction between First Midwest and NI Bancshares Corporation might not be obtained; credit and interest rate risks associated with First Midwest's and NI Bancshares' respective businesses, customer borrowing, repayment, investment and deposit practices, as well as customer and employee reactions to the proposed transaction between First Midwest and NI Bancshares; general economic conditions, either nationally or in the market areas in which First Midwest and NI Bancshares operate or anticipate doing business, may be less favorable than expected; new regulatory or legal requirements or obligations; and other risks, uncertainties and assumptions identified under the sections entitled "Risk Factors" and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in First Midwest's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, as well as First Midwest's subsequent filings made with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). However, these risks and uncertainties are not exhaustive. Other sections of such reports describe additional factors that could impact First Midwest's business and financial performance and pending or consummated acquisition transactions, including the proposed acquisition of NI Bancshares.

Additional Information for Stockholders

The information contained in this report does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities or a solicitation of any vote or approval. In connection with the proposed merger of First Midwest and NI Bancshares, First Midwest will file a registration statement on Form S-4 with the SEC. The registration statement will include a proxy statement of NI Bancshares and a prospectus of First Midwest, which will be sent to the stockholders of NI Bancshares. Stockholders are advised to read the registration statement and proxy statement/prospectus when it becomes available because it will contain important information about First Midwest, NI Bancshares and the proposed transaction. When filed, this document

and other documents relating to the transaction filed by First Midwest can be obtained free of charge from the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. These documents also can be obtained free of charge by accessing First Midwest's website at www.firstmidwest.com under the tab "Investor Relations" and then under "SEC Filings." Alternatively, these documents can be obtained free of charge from First Midwest upon written request to First Midwest Bancorp, Inc., Attn: Corporate Secretary, One Pierce Place, Suite 1500, Itasca, Illinois 60143 or by calling (630) 875-7463, or from NI Bancshares upon written request to NI Bancshares Corporation, Attn: Michael A. Cullen, President and Chief Executive Officer, 230 W. State Street, Sycamore, Illinois 60178 or by calling (815) 895-2125.

Participants in this Transaction

First Midwest, NI Bancshares and certain of their respective directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from NI Bancshares stockholders in connection with the proposed transaction between First Midwest and NI Bancshares under the rules of the SEC. Certain information regarding the interests of these participants and a description of their direct and indirect interests, by security holdings or otherwise, will be included in the proxy statement/prospectus regarding the proposed transaction when it becomes available. Additional information about First Midwest and its directors and certain of its officers may be found in First Midwest's definitive proxy statement relating to its 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders filed with the SEC on April 14, 2015. This definitive proxy statement can be obtained free of charge from the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

99.1 Press Release issued by First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. dated December 11, 2015.

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.

First Midwest Bancorp, Inc.
(Registrant)

Date: December 14, 2015

/s/ NICHOLAS J. CHULOS
By: Nicholas J. Chulos
Executive Vice President, Corporate Secretary, and
General Counsel