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PEAPACK GLADSTONE FINANCIAL CORP  
Form 8-K  
November 14, 2006

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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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) November 10, 2006  
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PEAPACK-GLADSTONE FINANCIAL CORPORATION

-----  
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

|   |                             |   |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| New Jersey  | 001-16197                   | 22-3537895                              |
| -----   | -----                       | -----                                   |
| (State or Other Jurisdiction<br>of Incorporation) | (Commission<br>File Number) | (I.R.S. Employer<br>Identification No.) |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| 158 Route 206, Peapack-Gladstone, New Jersey | 07934      |
| -----  | -----      |
| (Address of Principal Executive Offices)     | (Zip Code) |

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (908) 234-0700  
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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 (see General Instruction A.2. below):

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 4.01 Changes in Registrant's Certifying Accountant.

On November 10, 2006, the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of

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Peapack-Gladstone Financial Corporation (the "Corporation") dismissed KPMG LLP ("KPMG") as the principal accountants for the Corporation upon completion of the audit of the Corporation's consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2006, and the issuance of their reports thereon. Concurrently, the Audit Committee appointed Crowe Chizek and Company LLC ("Crowe Chizek") as the principal accountants for the Corporation for the year ending December 31, 2007, subject to the execution of a definitive engagement letter.

The audit reports of KPMG on the consolidated financial statements of the Corporation and subsidiary as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 did not contain an adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope, or accounting principles. The audit reports of KPMG on management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005 and 2004 did not contain an adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles.

In connection with the audits of the two fiscal years ended December 31, 2005, and the subsequent interim period through November 10, 2006, there were no (1) disagreements with KPMG on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedures, which disagreements if not resolved to KPMG's satisfaction would have caused KPMG to make reference in connection with their opinion to the subject matter of the disagreements in its audit reports on the consolidated financial statements of the Corporation or (2) "reportable events" as defined in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K.

During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, and from December 31, 2005 to the date of filing of this Form 8-K, the Corporation has not consulted with Crowe Chizek regarding either (a) the application of accounting principles to any completed or contemplated transaction, or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on the Corporation's consolidated financial statements; or (b) any of the other matters specified in Item 304(a)(1)(iv) of Regulation S-K.

The Corporation has requested and received from KPMG a letter, dated November 13, 2006, addressed to the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") stating whether or not KPMG agrees with the above statements. A copy of the KPMG letter is attached as Exhibit 16.1 to this Report.

The Corporation has provided a copy of the disclosures in this report to Crowe Chizek and offered it the opportunity to furnish a letter to the Commission contemplated by Item 304(a)(2)(ii)(D) of Regulation S-K. Crowe Chizek has advised that it does not intend to furnish such a letter to the Commission.

### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

#### (d) Exhibits.

| Exhibit No.<br>----- | Description<br>-----   |
|----------------------|--|
| 16.1                 | Letter, dated November 13, 2006 from KPMG LLP to the Securities and Exchange Commission. |

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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.

PEAPACK-GLADSTONE FINANCIAL CORPORATION

Dated: November 14, 2006

By: /s/ Arthur F. Birmingham

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Name: Arthur F. Birmingham  
Title: Executive Vice President and Chief  
Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No.<br>----- | Title<br>-----   |
|----------------------|--|
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