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MFN FINANCIAL CORP
Form DEFA14A
November 19, 2001

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

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. _____)

Filed by the Registrant
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Proxy Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> CONFIDENTIAL, FOR USE OF THE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Definitive Proxy Statement | COMMISSION ONLY (AS PERMITTED |
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MFN FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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(1) Amount previously paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

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[CPS LOGO]

NEWS RELEASE

Consumer Portfolio Services, Inc.
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CONSUMER PORTFOLIO SERVICES, INC. AGREES TO ACQUIRE
MFN FINANCIAL CORPORATION

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, NOVEMBER 19, 2001 -- Consumer Portfolio Services, Inc. (Nasdaq:CPSS), headquartered in Irvine, California, announced today that it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire MFN Financial Corporation (OTCBB:MFNF), headquartered in Lake Forest, Illinois, for \$10.00 per share of MFN Financial Corporation common stock, plus transaction related expenses and other contractual obligations. The boards of both companies have approved the agreement. Levine Leichtman Capital Partners, a Los Angeles, California, based private equity firm, has entered into an agreement with Consumer Portfolio Services to provide acquisition financing.

The transaction is subject to approval by the stockholders of MFN Financial Corporation, requisite regulatory review and other conditions, and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2002.

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"The addition of MFN's portfolio, operations and products to CPS's servicing and collection strengths will result in the creation of a strong competitor in the subprime automobile finance industry," said Charles E. Bradley, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of Consumer Portfolio Services, Inc. "The acquisition will double both the size of the CPS servicing portfolio and its servicing capacity, and increase the range of products available to the automobile dealership community. The merger will provide each company the expanded benefits and opportunities of being a part of a larger company, without losing any of the qualities that have allowed CPS and MFN to survive, and rebound, in a difficult industry," he continued.

- More -

"We are convinced that the proposed transaction with CPS is in the best interest of our shareholders," said Jeffrey B. Weeden, President and Chief Executive Officer of MFN Financial Corporation. "The combination of our two operations will offer automobile dealers a wider range of financing options for their customers and provide new opportunities for our employees," Weeden added.

This document contains forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. In particular, the statement that the acquisition is expected to close in the first quarter of 2002 is a forward-looking statement. Factors that could cause the transaction not to close at that time, or at all, would include the possibility that CPS might not obtain necessary external financing (although it has received commitments for such financing), that CPS might not have sufficient internally generated cash, that MFN might not have the requisite level of available cash, that the required consents of state consumer finance regulators might not be obtained, and that MFN stockholders may not approve the transaction. More generally, all statements herein other than statements of historical fact are statements that could be deemed forward-looking statements. For example, statements of the expected benefits of combining CPS with MFN are all forward-looking statements. Risks, uncertainties and assumptions include the possibility that the market for the services offered by CPS and MFN may not develop as expected; that the merger transaction does not close or that the companies may be required to modify aspects of the transaction to achieve regulatory approval; or that prior to the closing of the proposed merger, the businesses of the companies suffer due to uncertainty; that the parties may be unable to successfully execute their integration strategies or to achieve planned synergies; and other risks that may be described from time to time in CPS's and MFN's Securities and Exchange Commission reports. If any of these risks or uncertainties materializes or any of these assumptions proves incorrect, CPS's or MFN's results could differ materially from their expectations in these statements. CPS and MFN assume no obligation to update and do not intend to update these forward-looking statements.

Consumer Portfolio Services, Inc. purchases, sells and services retail installment sales contracts originated predominantly by franchised dealers for new and late model used cars. The Company finances automobile purchases through over 4,000 dealers under contract throughout the United States.

MFN Financial Corporation is a consumer finance company whose principal operating subsidiary is Mercury Finance Company LLC. Mercury Finance Company LLC provides specialized, individual financing for automobile nonprime credit buyers through automobile dealerships.

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[MFN Financial Services Logo]

News Release

Contact:
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MFN FINANCIAL CORPORATION ISSUES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
FOR MFN SHAREHOLDERS ON PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED MERGER AGREEMENT

LAKE FOREST, IL - NOVEMBER 19, 2001 - MFN Financial Corporation (OTCBB: MFNF), today issued the following additional information to its shareholders regarding its definitive agreement, previously announced today, to be acquired by Consumer Portfolio Services, Inc. (NASDAQ: CPSS):

In today's prior news release, Consumer Portfolio Services, Inc. said that it had signed a definitive agreement to acquire MFN Financial Corporation for \$10.00 per share, in cash, of MFN Financial Corporation common stock, plus transaction related expenses and other contractual obligations. The boards of both companies have approved the agreement, the release stated. Levine Leichtman Capital Partners, a Los Angeles, California, based private equity firm, has committed to provide acquisition financing, the release said.

The transaction is subject to approval by the stockholders of MFN Financial Corporation, requisite regulatory review and other conditions, and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2002.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MFN Financial Corporation will be sending a proxy statement to its shareholders seeking their approval of the proposed transaction. Investors and security holders are advised to read the proxy statement for further information. When filed, the proxy statement, as well as other SEC filings, can be obtained free of charge from the web site maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>.

MFN Financial Corporation and its directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from MFN Financial Corporation shareholders to approve the merger. Information about these participants is set forth in the Form 10-K filed with the SEC by MFN Financial Corporation on March 7, 2001. Additional information regarding the interests of

these participants may be obtained by reading the proxy statement regarding the proposed transaction when it becomes available.

This document contains forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. In particular, the statement that the acquisition is expected to close in the first quarter of 2002 is a forward-looking statement. Factors that could cause the transaction not to close at that time, or at all, would include the possibility that CPS might not obtain necessary external financing (although it has received commitments for such financing), that CPS might not have sufficient internally generated cash, that MFN might not have the requisite level of available cash, that the required consents of state consumer finance regulators might not be obtained, and that MFN stockholders may not approve the transaction. More generally, all statements herein other than statements of historical fact are statements that could be deemed forward-looking statements. Risks, uncertainties and assumptions include the

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possibility that the market for the services offered by CPS and MFN may not develop as expected; that the merger transaction does not close or that the companies may be required to modify aspects of the transactions to achieve regulatory approval; or that prior to the closing of the proposed merger, the businesses of the companies suffer due to uncertainty; that the parties may be unable to successfully execute their integration strategies or to achieve planned synergy's; and other risks that may be described from time to time in CPS's and MFN's Securities and Exchange Commission reports. If any of these risks or uncertainties materializes or any of these assumptions proves incorrect, CPS's or MFN's results could differ materially from their expectations in these statements. CPS and MFN assume no obligation to update and do not intend to update these forward-looking statements.

MFN Financial Corporation, with headquarters in Lake Forest, IL, is a consumer finance company whose principal operating subsidiary is Mercury Finance Company LLC. Mercury Finance Company LLC provides specialized, individual financing for automobile nonprime credit buyers through automobile dealerships.

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