

---

**FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF** EDEBOLDAUSTIN@SBCGLOBAL.NET

---

From the St. Louis Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2021/11/16/40-under-40-2021-matt-drinen-emerald-capital.html>

## **40 Under 40 2021: Matt Drinen, Emerald Capital and Green Street Real Estate Ventures**

Nov 16, 2021, 4:00pm CST

---

**The *St. Louis Business Journal* is rolling out profiles of all 40 Under 40 honorees this week. See the entire special section in our print edition Friday.**

*Matt Drinen co-founded Emerald Capital in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, drawing on his 12 years of industry experience.*

*In its first year, the company projects seven-figure revenues. Drinen has closed \$70 million in financing and sourced \$60 million in new market allocations, tapping programs like federal Opportunity Zones to bring development to low-income communities.*



DILIP VISHWANAT | SLBJ

Matt Drinen

*Drinen also joined Green Street*

*Development in 2020 as vice president of development and was able to close \$18 million in financing for the company's new headquarters in The Grove neighborhood.*

---

**What is your proudest accomplishment?** Outside of the birth of my children and marriage to my wife, creating Emerald Capital to be a national leader in assisting nonprofit and for-profit organizations to secure financing and incentives to allow their vision to become a reality.

**How do you contribute to the community?** At both Emerald Capital and Green Street Real Estate Ventures, we contribute to the St. Louis community by providing and driving economic development... to provide housing, retail, and quality of life projects that provide jobs, services, and goods to the community, specifically the low-income community.

**What is the next thing on your bucket list?** Professionally, to continue to add new team members who will provide new offerings to our clients.

**What have you learned about yourself during the pandemic?** I have learned through the pandemic that obstacles will always present themselves with almost any scenario in life. Instead of avoiding them, we must embrace them and meet them head on with a positive attitude.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?** Continuing to support the growth of Emerald Capital and Green Street, not only in St. Louis but nationally.

**Describe yourself in one word.** Driven.

**What's holding back St. Louis' growth?** Growth can be viewed in different areas (population growth, business presence growth, growth in new development). Historically, St. Louis has had a provincial and negative self-view. St. Louis has world class health care, education, tech and ag-tech organizations. We should focus on keeping the young talent from local and regional universities to live and work in St. Louis after graduation.

---

## **More about Matt Drinen**

**Title and company:** Principal and co-founder, Emerald Capital; vice president of development, Green Street Real Estate Ventures

**Age:** 38

**Education:** Bachelor's degree from University of Missouri; MBA from Washington University

**Family:** Kristi, wife; children Gavin and Ella; and parents Pam and Keith Drinen