

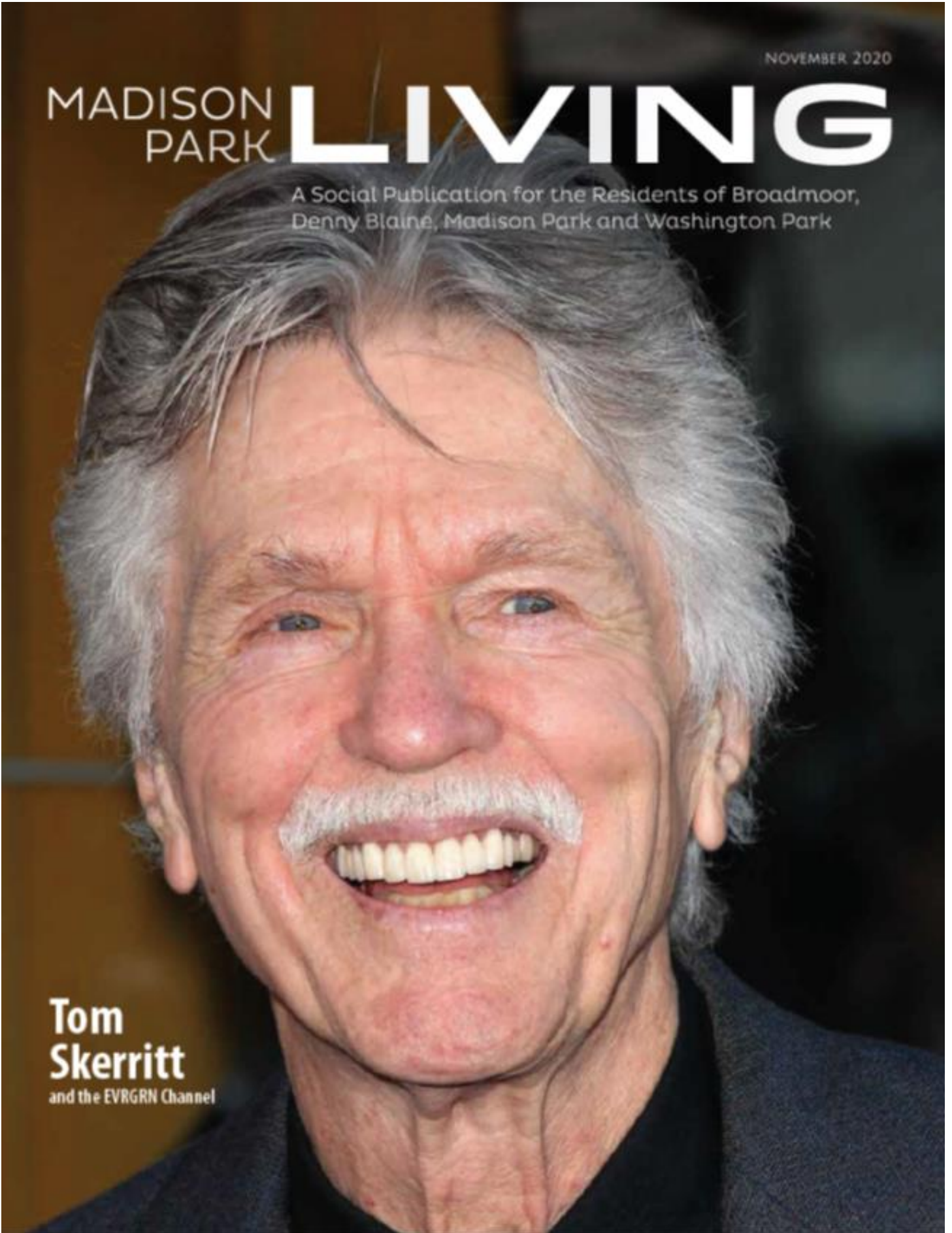
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# LIVING

A Social Publication for the Residents of Broadmoor,  
Denny Blaine, Madison Park and Washington Park

**Tom  
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and the EVRGRN Channel



# Washington Education and Squash Academy

## giving back

By Gwen Hughes

It may sound counterintuitive, but children who are involved in rigorous extracurricular activities are much more likely to be academically successful. So, it's no wonder then that nonprofits like Washington Education and Squash Academy (WESA) are using sports to help kids succeed in the classroom.



Established in 2013, WESA provides free academic tutoring, squash training, and community service opportunities to low-income youth in North Seattle. These elements are combined into the WESA afterschool program, which takes place three to four days a week at local athletic clubs.

But why squash? As a sport, squash, and racket games, are most often played in the upper socioeconomic spheres, with teams at prep schools and private colleges. Board member Ross Elkin said, "Exposing these kids from a very different part of society to the world of squash opens their eyes to many more possibilities."

WESA has a unique opportunity to help students succeed. Kids can be involved in the program from third grade to their senior year of high school: "The goal of the program is personal development with a path to college and the use of the sport of squash as a vehicle for that," Elkin explained.

Since lockdown, WESA's programming has been largely modified with a majority of training and tutoring taking place online. Kate Frost, executive director and trained teacher, has taken on the role of online tutor for the kids, planning supplemental tutoring during the school year and additional programming during the summer.



As the new academic year begins, Frost understands that each child requires unique forms of support. She said of online tutoring, "For some of our students, it might just be a check-in and helping hold them accountable for the new remote process, and for other students, it may be direct homework help."

Moving forward, WESA hopes to expand its reach past North Seattle to help support more underserved communities and, when it's safe, to get kids back on the court.

In the meantime, the teachers, coaches, and volunteers are helping amazing kids dedicate their time to learning a unique skill and creating the foundations continued academic and professional success.