

meet your neighbor



Written by  
Elizabeth  
McCabe



Interview  
by **Melanie  
Simon**,  
Tierra Verde  
Resident

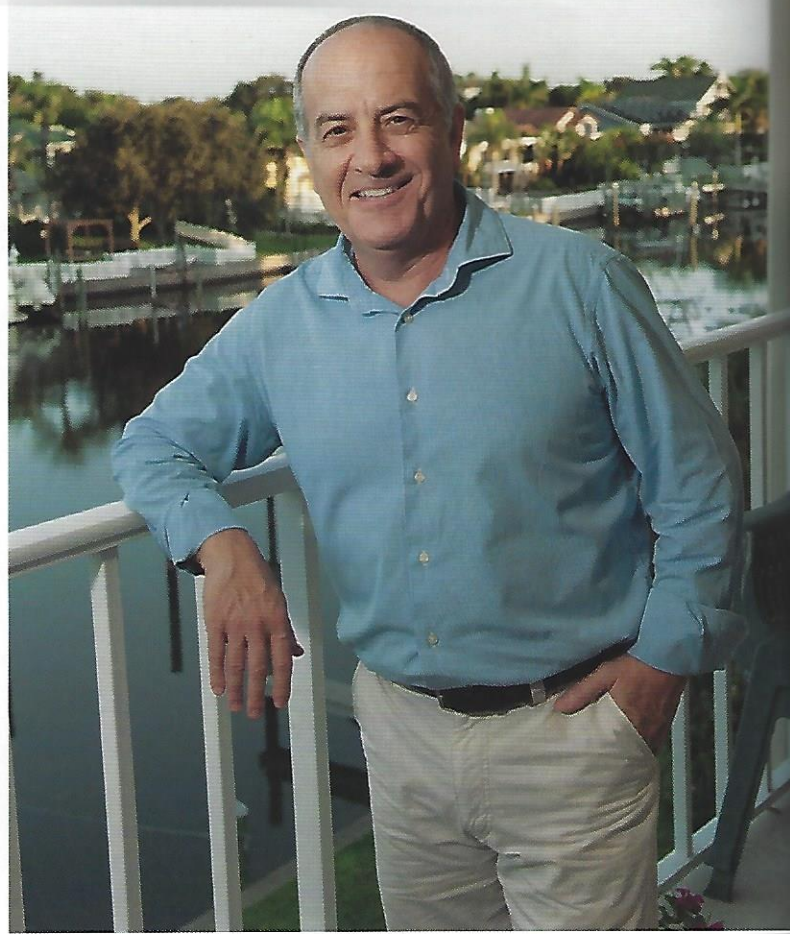
Photo  
Credit: **Rob  
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# Roberto Alvarez

Roberto Alvarez loves living here in Tierra Verde. He has been here to stay since January 1993.

He enjoyed a long career in television while putting roots down in Tierra Verde. Born in Gary, Indiana, Roberto started his broadcasting career as a disc jockey on the Indiana University campus radio station WIUS before landing a sports reporter job at WTIU-TV in Bloomington, Indiana. In 1979 immediately after graduating from Indiana University he was hired as the master control room supervisor at WCAE-TV in St. John, Indiana but worked his way up to assistant sports director before being promoted to the director's position.

WCAE-TV, a public broadcasting station produced a high school sports show on Friday nights, which Roberto anchored and produced. From there, his

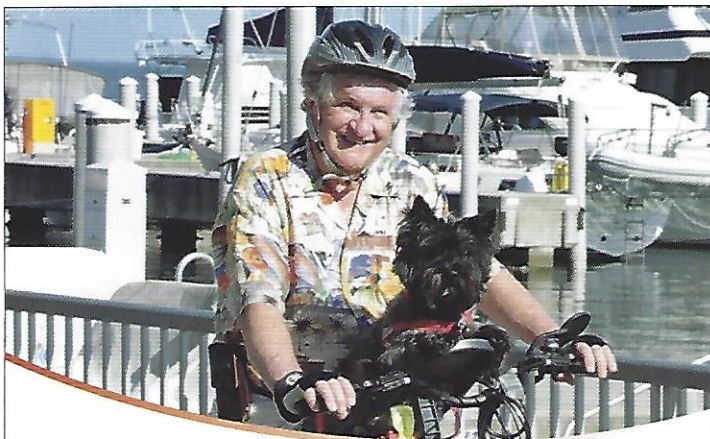


career skyrocketed as he lived in different states (Nebraska, Texas, Illinois and Florida) working in sports. He landed in Tampa in 1988 working for WTOG as their sports director, where he remained until August 1995.

Then he got an offer to move to New Orleans to be the sports director at the NBC affiliate where he remained for three years. After a brief break to take his mother to Italy, Roberto entered the television market once again, getting a job at a production company that produced a Tampa Bay Rays show, Bucs show, and Lightning show which he did for four years.

A born entertainer, Roberto always wanted to leave the people laughing. Now he has found a new platform for his skill set and personality – teaching conversational Italian. Roberto knows Italian and got his start teaching at a community center at St. Petersburg. He transitioned into teaching at area restaurants as well as offering private one-to-one lessons. These lessons are great for general knowledge or for those who are looking to go to Italy in the future.

Roberto even leads tours to Italy. He attended L'Universita di Bologna in Bologna, Italy in 1978. Also, his mother immigrated to the United States from Naples, Italy which gives him an insider's view of this fascinating country. He treats his tour guests to a welcome meal and even a dinner at his cousin's house. Going to Italy gives people an opportunity to use their newly acquired Italian language firsthand. It's also a lot of fun.



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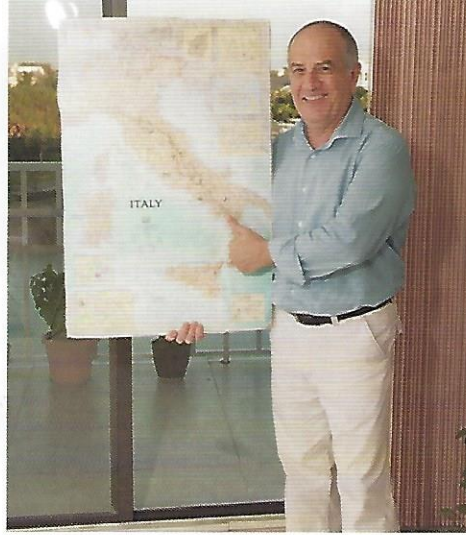


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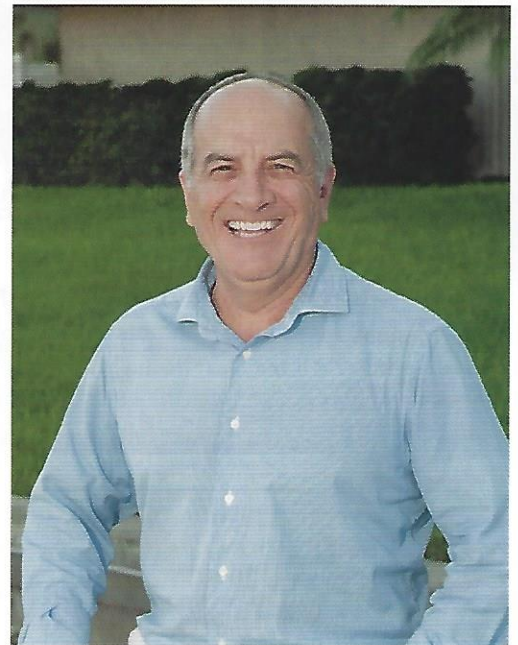
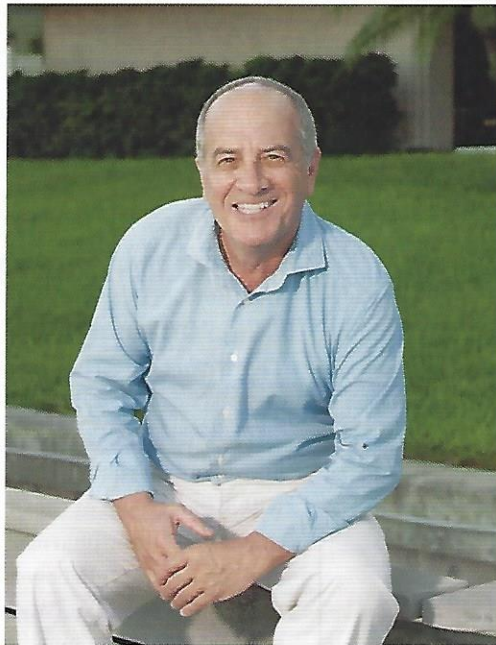
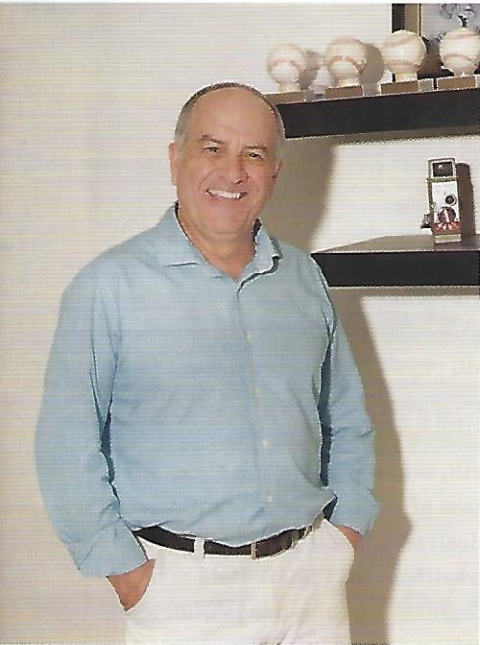
*Live Well. Be Happy.*





When Roberto isn't teaching Italian, you can find him at Addicted to the Bean, where he works in the Isla Del Sol location. He enjoys the hospitality industry and the smiles on the faces of those drinking the best coffee in St. Petersburg.

Roberto loves Tierra Verde. Expect to find him at Tony & Nello's, Billy's, and other local hangouts. Be sure to say hello to him when you see him out and about. He would love to meet more friendly folks here in the neighborhood!



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