

Veterans village names executive director, expects to take in homeless vets soon

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A man with more than 40 years of law enforcement experience will oversee the Golden Isles Veterans Village as it prepares to begin taking in homeless vets over the next few months.

Stephen W. Brooks was named this week as the village's executive director after a career of civil service that includes serving in many capacities at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick.

"Throughout his career, Stephen has exemplified professionalism, integrity, and a deep commitment to the safety and well-being of his community. With a life marked by service, I have full confidence that Stephen will lead the Golden Isles Veterans Village in providing safe and secure housing as a solution for veteran homelessness in Glynn County," Lorene Reid, President of the GIVV Board of Directors, said in a press release announcing the hire.

Brooks will lead the village at 1403 G Street in Brunswick that consists of 29 tiny homes and a community center designed to provide support services for homeless veterans. The program will offer health care, counseling and job training to help vets transition back into the community, the release said.

Brooks is originally from Hot Springs, Arkansas. He earned a bachelor's degree from University of Arkansas at Little Rock, a master's degree from Clayton University and law degree from

Florida Coastal School of Law. He is also a graduate of the United States Naval War College Command and Staff School.

Brooks has lived with his wife, Deborah, on St. Simons Island for more than 30 years. They raised two daughters, Madelyne Brooks Risi, of St. Simons Island, and Dr. Molly Brooks McNeill, of Gullane, Scotland. Brooks has three grandchildren.

He has also written seven novels and is an active member of St. Simons Presbyterian Church, where he serves as a deacon.

A grand opening event for the Golden Isles Veterans Village is scheduled for 10 a.m., Feb. 8, at 1403 G Street in Brunswick.