

# Animosity lingers after flag dispute

■ A homeowner who fought to fly an American flag says she still encounters backlash.

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**EULESS** — American flags fly freely now in the Heritage Place subdivision, but Eules resident Linda Martin, who



MARTIN

championed the cause, continues to struggle for neighborhood harmony.

Martin raised the flag issue after the July Fourth holiday when she was told to remove her American flag because of a deed restriction. After an onslaught of criticism, the Heritage Place board of directors in August lifted the restriction, reportedly enacted as precaution against people who don't maintain their flags.

All homeowners association board members resigned after residents circulated a petition requesting their removal. A new five-member board is in place and plans to present general policies at a meeting in January.

Tim Young, board president, said the meeting will be "a very

open process" covering basic rules such as mowing guidelines and paint colors. Flying American or Texas flags will be protected under the association's policies, Young said.

Neighborhood animosity still exists, Martin said. Animal control officers and Eules police have visited her home about 20 times since June because of complaints about barking, she said. Other residents don't have nearly that many complaints against them, police said.

Martin has two beagles, Toby and Tara, but she says the complaints are not valid because the dogs often attend doggy day care.

"I feel like a drug dealer, the police are at my home so much," said Martin, adding that an obscenity was scratched on her car this summer.

Martin said Eules police told her residents can file complaints anonymously, so little can be done to stop what she labels harassment.

Martin displays her American flag a few days before and after most holidays. She said she doesn't put it out more because she does not want to annoy her neighbors.