

# WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

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RALPH WILSON/Sun-Gazette

Neighborhood youth who have committed their time to cleaning up Flanagan Park pose for a photo Wednesday. The group will be participating in Community Awareness Day activities at the park Saturday.

## *Neighborhood cleanup effort to zero in on center-city park*

By **MARK MARONEY**  
Sun-Gazette Staff

A center-city park should be the source of pride, not problems, once the neighborhood and area children finish with it.

The object of all the attention this Saturday is Flanagan Park, in the area of Little League Boulevard, Memorial Avenue and Walnut Street.

Billed as "Youth Leadership Community Clean Up and Awareness Day," organizers from The Center,

600 Campbell St., and the Kennedy-King Youth Basketball League, in conjunction with the Williamsport Housing Authority, want to bring the park back to life, according to Rocky Boone, executive director of The Center.

Participants plan to paint faded basketball courts, plant flowers and pick up trash. Some of the children taking part will have their first landscaping experience as they work to spruce up the park.

It all begins at 8 a.m. Saturday when the makeover — as much a

philosophical challenge against blight as it is a youth intervention — gets started.

The park is maintained by the city's Streets and Parks Department. The department and the housing authority plan to provide shovels, rakes, brooms, paint, trash cans and work gloves to the volunteers.

One city councilwoman who lives near the park is enthusiastic about the effort.

"I think it's great," said Councilwoman Marlyne J. Whaley of 704  
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