COMMENT: At the City Council meeting of February 5, 2002, Council recommended that staff work with the Senior Council to try and improve funding for the operation of the Senior Center and report back to the City Council in 90 days to show progress has been made. A staff report on Senior Funding was presented to the City Council on April 2, 2002. Staff is continuing to meet with the Seniors to help find funding sources. We are currently implementing the following items to help raise funds.

1. **Trip Program:** The Senior Council is implementing an excursion program for Seniors and the general public. The program will not only increase recreation opportunities for Seniors but will help raise funds for the operation of the Senior Center. Trips will be offered throughout the year to various popular destinations. The first trip planned to the Getty Museum on April 16, 2002 did not fill enough seats, thus it was cancelled. The last trip to Hearst Castle was successful. Our goal is to provide a new trip destination every month.

2. **Hourly Fee Increase:** The Senior Council has approved a fee increase to all Senior affiliate groups of $2.00 per hour for the use of the Center. This fee will help cover utility costs.

3. **Fee Classifications:** Staff has met with the County Housing Authority to clarify facility uses, fees and reservations for groups other than Seniors. The Housing Authority staff requested a letter from the City identifying the Santa Fe Depot facility uses and fees for consideration by the Housing Authority. The City Council approved the fee classifications at the April 16, 2002 Council Meeting. It was planned that the fee classifications would allow the Seniors to raise more revenue by allowing other groups to use the Center. The approved fee classifications were submitted to the Housing Authority for their consideration. Unfortunately, they declined to approve the fee classification request. The Housing Authority Board felt that the neighborhood was created as a Senior area, with the Santa Fe Depot and Senior apartments and activities. Increased activities at the building for non-senior purposes, primarily in the evening hours, would add traffic to the area and disturb the peaceful enjoyment of the Seniors who live there. A secondary concern of the Housing Authority Board is that the increased usage, for non-senior activities, would increase the Housing Authority’s cost of operation because they have the responsibility for maintaining the structural components of the building. Consequently, our lease with the County Housing Authority will stay as it is, “The premises are leased solely and exclusively for Senior Citizen’s functions and activities and may not be used for any other purpose.”
4. **Consolidation of Sites:** Staff has met with the Area Agency on Aging to recommend moving the Senior Meals Program, currently held at the Putnam Community Center, to the Santa Fe Depot Senior Center. The consolidation will increase recreation opportunities and other funding possibilities. The Area Agency on Aging has many points they are concerned about regarding the move. Staff feels these areas of concern can be solved; however, it will take time. We will continue to work with the Area Agency on Aging on the move.

5. **Senior Council Financial Report:** At the last Senior Council meeting, it was reported the balance in the General Fund for May, 2002, was $7,002.75. The Bingo Fund has a balance of $6,471.90. The City staff assisted Seniors in advertising for the Bingo Program in May. Funding continues to cover expenses.

   Staff will continue to assist the Seniors in finding solutions to the funding concerns. Overall, efforts so far seem to be working. Staff will continue to give the Council updates on the Senior Funding status.

   **RECOMMENDATION:** That the City Council approve the continuation of the steps necessary to help find funding sources for the Senior Center.