

WIRELESS HOTSPOTS

Where Area Residents Love
to Log On and Relax

Written by Christy Collins
Photography by Lindi Bryant

In a society that is constantly on the go, sometimes it seems impossible to have a still moment to get anything done. While technology is cutting edge, often all that is needed is a few quiet minutes and space to focus. Sugar Land offers a wide variety of local venues for those times when you just want to log in, relax, and connect with our great city.

Sugar Land Town Square

Although Sugar Land Town Square is a fairly recent addition to the city, it's chock-full of interesting shops and venues. There are many places to relax and access free internet. Located between Lexington and the Southwest Freeway on Highway 6, this area is full of little shops worth a few hours of meandering. For a quick, need-to-cram for a test/presentation/interview lunch, consider stopping by Baker Street Pub and Grill. They consider themselves an authentic British pub with plenty of European ambiance. Sit outside and access free internet while enjoying some "Bangers and Mash." Another, more sophisticated option is Vineyard on the Square. This is a wine-tasting bar that caters to many business personnel. They offer hors d'oeuvres, salads, and desserts as well as a wide variety of wines to sample. But, they are also open during the lunch hour. If you are staying in a hotel nearby, this is the place to relax and plug in the laptop as they offer free internet access to their customers.

Other Local Favorites

Sugar Land has amazing local coffee houses and ice cream parlors that are worth a visit. It's A Grind Coffee House has a wonderful throwback to college days feel. Set up like a typical coffee house, it offers bagels, pastries, desserts along with games to play with friends. The eclectic seating and young clientele give it a vibrant attitude. In addition, Kelsey Fyffe, a local high school student, states "I think they have the best coffee drinks in Sugar Land. I have been to many cafes, and It's A Grind has the best." If you need a place to send your high school student to study, or you just want to feel young again, grab your computer and head to It's A Grind.

Java Dave's Coffee is another must visit local venue. They have outdoor seating to enjoy the weather while you enjoy your coffee. If your computer is in the shop or on the fritz, try Java Dave's. They have computers located inside the store for customer use. And, usage is free! There are even printers attached that charge a nominal fee for prints.

Piccomolo is a darling Italian Ice Cream parlor. Colorful, spacious, and friendly inside, it's the perfect place to bring your young children during the day. Give them some gelato and check email while they eat. And, you won't have to feel guilty about all

the sugar. Piccomolo Italian ice cream is a healthier option to regular ice cream with less calories, fat, and sugar per serving. "They also have a good selection of sugar free and fat free gelato," affirms Fyffe.

Tried and True

There are always local franchises that offer internet access as well. For a power lunch, try Schlotzsky's Deli. They provide free internet access for those who need to work, even on their lunch break. If you need to step away from the office to get some business completed, grab a sandwich for the lunch hour. Or, if paninis sound more appealing, try Panera Bread. They also offer free internet, and the atmosphere is light and family-friendly.

Barnes and Noble is another great place to take a laptop. Somehow, just being around a plethora of books makes one feel more productive (and a little smarter, too!). Any topic is within arms reach. There is no charge to access the Barnes and Noble website online, but other forms of internet surfing require an agreement with AT&T. It is similar with Starbucks. An agreement with T-Mobile or a T-Mobile wireless card is needed for internet access at a Starbucks. As the real "go-to" place for coffee and conversation, you can really feel the bustle of the city at Starbucks. They have comfortable seating and plenty of tables for your laptop.

Library Quiet Time

A more informal establishment, but a goody nonetheless, is the local library. All of Fort Bend County libraries have free internet access. What a great way to combine work for you with learning for your children! Take the kids to story hour or let them sit and look at books. Mom can do some online shopping for birthday presents, check email, or get a head start on business for the next day.

Wireless is the way to go these days, and it is not hard to find establishments that offer internet access. You will find it is easy to squeeze in work and study here and there once you get started. Take time to see all that Sugar Land has to offer. You will not be disappointed. **SLM**

CHRISTY COLLINS is a licensed Master of Social Work and more importantly, a busy mom with two little girls. She loves to go out with her husband to some of Sugar Land's charming local venues.



Lindsay at Coffee Groundz



The Coffee Groundz



Piccomolo Italian Ice Cream and Coffee Café offers wireless access to its customers

SUGAR LAND AREA WIRELESS HOTSPOTS

The Coffee Groundz
2108 Hwy 6 S
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Java Dave's Coffee
3536A Highway 6 South
Sugar Land 77478

Panera Bread
1928 Highway 6
Sugar Land 77478

Vineyard on the Square
16135 City Walk
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Baker Street Pub and Grill
15970 City Walk
Sugar Land 77479

Sugar Land Branch Library
550 Eldridge
Sugar Land, Texas 77478

It's a Grind
4727 Sweetwater Blvd.
Sugar Land 77479

First Colony Branch Library
2121 Austin Parkway
Sugar Land, Texas 77479

Piccomolo Italian Ice Cream
and Coffee Café
3149 Highway 6 South
Sugar Land 77478

Mamie George Branch
Library
Stafford, Texas
320 Dulles Avenue
Stafford, Texas 77477

For a complete list of the Fort Bend Library system,
visit fortbend.lib.tx.us