

# Techknow

WI-FI IN LYNN

## HOT SPOTS

City has at least  
5 areas for wireless  
Internet connection

LYNN

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THE DAILY ITEM

There are six hot spots in Lynn—and we're not talking about nightclubs here.

Wi-Fi, which is short for wireless fidelity, allows users to connect to the Internet with a wide variety of devices including computers.

Wi-Fi has gained acceptance in many businesses, agencies, schools, and homes as an alternative to hard-wired Internet connections. Many airports, hotels, and fast-food facilities offer public access to Wi-Fi networks. These locations are known as hot spots. Some Wi-Fi hot spots charge a fee for to connect to the Internet and others offer it as a free service to their patrons.

Connery Rink, Gulu-Gulu Café and Tatiana's all offer free Wi-Fi access and two McDonald's, which are located at 60 Boston St. and 567 Lynnway, offer paid access to the Internet.

Steve Feldman, who owns the Gulu-Gulu Café, said it is not unusual to see four or five people working on their computers in the popular Central Square eatery especially in the morning and late afternoon.

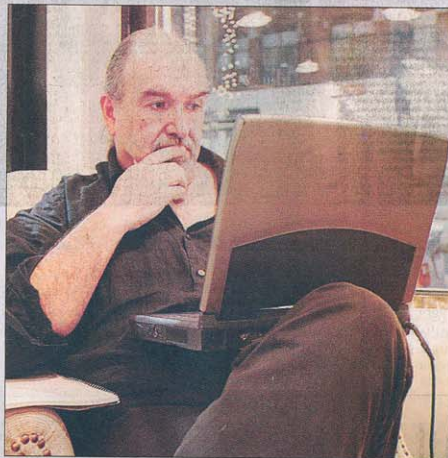
The scene is much the same at Tatiana's, 70 Market Square. Owner Norma Delgado said she started offering free Wi-Fi a year ago as a service to her customers and it has been well received.

"It is pretty popular," she said. "In the mid-afternoon we have customers who come in with their laptops. Some of our regular customers spend a lot of time using it here."

Connery Skating Arena, 182 Shepard St., also offers free Wi-Fi for its patrons. The ice rink is managed by Facility Management Corporation and Arena Manager John Carroll-said the technology was installed almost a year ago.

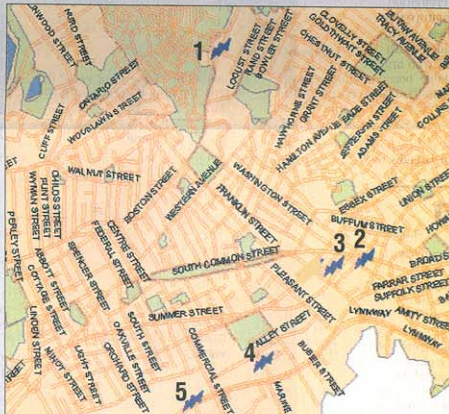
"We offer it as a service for our patrons," he said. "We have a few parents who bring their computers and work while their kids skate."

Wi-Fi users should be aware not all access points are equal in terms of speed or security. The Wayport system, which is in use at McDonald's, is an 802.11b connection, which is not only slow but also one of the least secure network connections out there. When using a connection of this type, Wi-Fi users should be very wary because there is a possibility other users in the



ITEM PHOTO / REBA M. SALDANA

David Jones of Lynn takes advantage of a Wi-Fi hot spot at the Gulu-Gulu Café in Central Square.



Map shows Wi-Fi spots in Lynn: 1. McDonald's, 60 Boston St., Lynn. 2. Gulu-Gulu Café, 56 Central Square, Lynn. 3. Tatiana's, 70 Market St., Lynn. 4. Connery Rink. 5. McDonald's, 567 Lynnway.

immediate vicinity could access the information on their computer hard drive.

The 802.11g connection, which is used at Gulu-Gulu Café and several of the other hot spots in Lynn, offers maximum speed and supports more users simultaneously. It offers connection speeds five times faster than the 802.11b and it's designed to be more secure than earlier versions.

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