Buying a Car

There is so much to consider when purchasing a vehicle. It is important to put together a list of priorities and a budget, so you can make the choice that is best for your lifestyle and your wallet.

**Determine Your Budget**
The first step in choosing your new car is to figure out how much you can afford to spend. Putting together a monthly budget might be helpful in figuring out what you have left over for a car payment. If you'll be borrowing an auto loan you must factor that into your future finances, and keep in mind that driving a vehicle comes with other expenses like insurance, gas and repairs.

10 Best Car Buying Tips
Finding a Car that Fits your Budget
Making Large Purchases Responsibly

**Weigh Your Options**
Once you know how much you can afford to spend you can begin to think about what you need in a car. Make a list of your top priorities and see which cars in your price range fit the mark.

When looking at prices take ownership costs into consideration. Websites like Edmunds.com and Kelly Blue Book kbb.com, can give you a general overview of ownership costs in your area.
If a new car seems unreasonable a used or certified pre-owned car may be a better option.

**What is a Certified Car?**

**Choose a Payment Method**

Auto Loan:
If your decide to borrow an auto loan know that you will likely need to make a down payment and then monthly payments until you have paid off the remaining balance and accrued interest. Secure financing in advance from a bank or credit union. This way, you can compare these rates to what the dealership offers you. Coming with a pre-approval will also show the dealer that you are a serious and qualified buyer.

Paying in full:
If you’ve saved up enough money to pay for your automobile upfront it will allow you to avoid taking on debt and paying interest. It may also give you leverage in negotiating at the dealership. Do your research on the manufacturer’s suggested retail price, the wholesale price, and the dealer’s asking price to make sure you’re getting a fair deal.
Leasing:
When you lease, you make a down payment and then monthly payments for a predetermined amount of time. Leases also limit the amount of miles you can put on the car and charge for every mile you drive beyond the allotted maximum. When your lease is up you have the option to trade it in for a new vehicle or finance the remaining value of the vehicle.

Should you Buy or Lease your Next Car?
Pros and Cons of Leasing