



# The Barrington Bullet

A SPEEDING 1964 IMPALA

GOING FAST ON FOUR WHEELS was a hallmark of the high-octane 1960s. One area locale serving up speed was Belmont Automotive. Lifelong Barrington resident Charlie Barnes owned the three-bay shop, located on Northwest Highway in Palatine. He and his team did everything from simple repairs all the way up to tuning, suspension mods, and engine swaps. Their place was always full of Detroit's latest muscle machines, corner carvers, and drag cars. They even built a stock car for a Paul Newman film.



A 1960s T-shirt promotes Belmont Automotive.

"We enjoyed what we were doing," said Charlie. "Every day at work was fun." While running the shop, Charlie owned over 23 different vehicles. He had everything from Corvettes to Challengers to an Austin-Healey that he that he equipped with a massive Cadillac engine. His intense passion passed to his son, Chuck, another Barrington resident. He started working on cars at age 15 and pursued a career in mechanics.

Like his father, Chuck has opened his own place, souping up classic cars. When he's not wrenching on others' rides, he's working on a personal project—a 1964 Chevy Impala Super Sport. Chuck is overhauling the classic to be a vintage superstock racecar. His goal is to have it be a rolling tribute to his dad's legacy and love of cars. It's christened the "Barrington Bullet", because of Charlie's deep connection to the area. Chuck picked an Impala because the model is one of his dad's favorites. "When I was little, I used to hang out at his shop," said Chuck. "I want this to be reminiscent of the types of fast cars that came through Belmont."

The Impala features gold-leaf lettering, a 409ci, dual-quad V8, and tons of speed parts. When he's through, Chuck plans on racing it at area tracks in nostalgic events. He's a chip off the old block and Charlie couldn't be more proud. 

## Collectible Insights

The original sticker price for a 1964 Impala SS was around \$2,950. Chevy produced a total of 185,325 coupes and convertibles in 1964. Hagerty Insurance estimates the average value of a two-door Sport Coupe hardtop in factory condition, equipped with the 409cid/340hp V8, to be around \$45,900.



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