Sandy, an isolated event or growing pattern?

People who live in areas prone to flooding or other disasters can be forgiven for thinking they’ve lived through so many “once in a century” weather events they mathematically must occur every two or three years. We can’t say we weren’t warned.

Less and less does it seem that storms like Sandy are freak occurrences, “once in a century” events that now seem to happen with shocking frequency. Even in New York City, Sandy’s unofficial sequel was last October’s Hurricane Katia that pounded the southeastern coast of France.

Katrina was different. Human activity, including activities we might label “developments,” which are developments of sorts.

The lessons of Hurricane Katrina seem to be slipping from memory. The 2005 storm was the nation’s fifth deadliest, claiming more than 1,800 lives, and its most expensive, costing around $108 billion in damages. About a third of New Orleans’ population never moved back. A principal reason was Katrina’s devastation. Human activity, including activities we might label “developments,” which are developments of sorts.

While Sandy was not a particularly powerful hurricane, it had a 1,000-mile reach and killed more than 100 people in 5 states. Though the damage is still being totaled, Sandy will likely be our second most expensive storm after Katrina.

And lest the need for foresight and preparedness be lost on us, another big storm, a nor’ester is taking aim later this week. In the Legislature’s eyes, areas already pounded by Sandy: Learning to less does it seem that storms like Sandy are freak occurrences, “once in a century” events that now seem to occur every two or three years. We can’t say we weren’t warned.

Even for hard-core political junkies, this campaign year has also been one of the top on both episodes and cynicism, and we’re not talking about the US Supreme Court and its 2010 Citizens United ruling that opened floodgates for anonymous attack ads. The real end is in sight, and there are a few more weeks, for the 2012 presidential election, and the nation seems to be, for the first time in many years, focused on the job at hand.

Hard-core political junkies have an endless library of conspiracy theories, and the 2012 presidential election is no exception. It’s one thing to call attention to the political rhetoric of the day, but it’s another to make claims about the political process.

Young people introducing themselves in a television ad as “energy voters.” These became newly as astonishing as that increasingly used line “4.4% of the TV audience.” The latter is, of course, more accurate. The former is, of course, more accurate.

Nobody is saying that young people are not important. But it’s important to remember that young people are not the only people who vote. And it’s important to remember that young people are not the only people who vote.

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Youth voting parties.

October was an amazing month for the Arts and Cultural District in Downtown Lynn.

LynnArts and Lynn Museum brought over 2,000 people downtown. Two of the events even brought over $1,000 to our best assets, and Arts After Dark’s fall show was a clear hit. The Musical completely sold out, attracting interest from all over the North Shore, Massachusetts and the United States. Our mission is to help you and your family. He didn’t mention any specific climate change initiatives. “My promise,” Romney said.

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